Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

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UAE-Iran Talks Reportedly 'Progressing Well'

LD2011164495 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1556 GMT 20 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Doha, 20 Nov — Sources close to the Iranian-United Arab Emirates [UAE] official talks, currently being held in Doha to discuss the dispute between the two countries over the islands of Tunb al-Sughra [Lesser Tunb], Tunb al-Kubra [Greater Tunb], and Abu Musa, have stressed that so far the talks are progressing well, and that discussions and dialogue are continuing between the two sides.

Asked by the KUWAITI NEWS AGENCY what was discussed during the session which ended late last night, the sources said: "The sessions are now within the framework of discussion and consultation."

The sources pointed out that there is continued contact between the two delegations and their governments for briefing on the papers, views, and proposals discussed during the sessions.

The sources said the head of the Iranian delegation commented yesterday on the head of the UAE delegation's address. They did not elaborate on the nature of the comment, but said that the head of the UAE delegation replied to the Iranian comment.

The head of the UAE delegation proposed in his address on the opening of the talks on the day before yesterday that the agenda should include the ending of the military occupation of Tunb al-Sughra and Tunb al-Kubra, abiding by the 1971 memorandum of understanding regarding the island of Abu Musa and referring the dispute on the three islands to the International Court of Justice if a negotiated settlement is not reached within a specific period of time.

Regarding whether the talks have entered the stage of preparing the agenda, the sources said there is nothing new to say on that subject and that the talks are thus far "checking the pulse by the two sides." [passage omitted]

Islamic Affairs

OIC Secretary General Condemns Islamabad Bombing

LD2011184695 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1804 GMT 20 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Jeddah, 20 Nov (SPA) —Dr. Hamid Algabid, secretary general of the Organization of Islamic Conference [OIC], expressed his strong condemnation of the explosion which took place at the Egyptian Embassy in Islamabad yesterday, the toll from which was 16 people killed, including officials from the Embassy itself, and many people injured.

In a news statement which was distributed today, Algabid expressed to the governments of the Arab Republic of Egypt and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan his strong feelings of sadness for the loss of many innocent lives caused by that savage attack.

Algabid expressed condolences and sympathy to the families of those who were killed or injured as a result of that criminal act.

He stressed that the OIC condemned all acts of terrorism saying that these actions contradict the teachings of Islam.

Islamic World League Condemns Islamabad Bombing

LD2011180595 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1640 GMT 20 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Mecca, 20 Nov (SPA) — The Islamic World League Secretariat General in Mecca has condemned yesterday's sad explosion at the Arab Republic of Egypt embassy in Islamabad, Pakistan, which killed 16 people and injured many others.

The League's official spokesman said that individuals carrying out such shameful actions will do harm to the whole Islamic nation and its reputation. It will also greatly harm all Muslims and the sublime values they believe in, he added.

The spokesman stated that the series of explosions taking place in various parts of the Islamic world meant that there were parties planning to disrupt the nation's march and sow sedition which will keep it from its main objectives. [passage omitted]

Political Islam Review: AL-SHA'B 12 Nov

NC1811200995

[FBIS Editorial Report] The following is a comprehensive review of all items in the 12 November edition of the Arabic language newspaper AL-SHA'B that pertain to political Islamic issues.

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1. Labor Party Leader Supports Elections Follow-up Committee
2. Police Arrest Supporters of Sayf-al-Islam Hasan al-Banna
3. Police Disperse Islamist Candidates March in Shibin al-Kawm
4. University Students Protest Muslim Brotherhood Trials
5. Police Arrest 50 Islamic Group Members in Qina
6. Egypt Said Concerned Over Qatar-Israeli Gas Deal

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7. National Democratic Party Popularity Said Declining
8. Arab League Official Says Rabin Was Not Man of Peace
9. Profiles of Five Labor Party Candidates Published
10. Labor Party Republishes Electoral Program

LABOR PARTY LEADER SUPPORTS ELECTIONS FOLLOW-UP COMMITTEE

A 200-word unattributed report on page 1 says Labor Party leader Ibrahim Shukri has sent a letter to Dr. Sa'id al-Najjar, chairman of the Egyptian Elections National Follow-up Committee, congratulating him on the formation of the committee. In his letter, Shukri says he places all Labor Party resources at the disposal of the committee. He also expresses hope that the committee will be a "nucleus" for a strong and permanent effort that will preserve Egypt's reputation and protect the nation against any "folly or rigging."

POLICE ARREST SUPPORTERS OF SAYF-AL-ISLAM HASAN AL-BANNA

A 200-word unattributed report on page 1 says police have arrested eight supporters of Sayf-al-Islam Hasan al-Banna, the Islamist Alliance candidate for the al-Darb al-Ahmar constituency, as they were hanging posters. Commenting on these arrests, al-Banna said that what is happening in his constituency conflicts with President Mubarak's assertions that the elections will be fair. He asked: "Is it fair to ask him to keep the number of his supporters to five?" "Is it fair to tear his posters, arrest his supporters, and prevent his marches?" Al-Banna added: "We are prevented from contacting the masses and from presenting ourselves and our programs to them. We are the only ones who adhere to law and order."

POLICE DISPERSE ISLAMIST CANDIDATES MARCH IN SHIBIN AL-KAWM

A 200-word report by Khalid Yunus on page 1 says that as part of the "constant harassment" of the Islamist candidates, police dispersed an election march by Islamist candidates Muhammad 'Ali Bashar and Fawzi Sulayman in the Shibin al-Kawm constituency on 10 November. Traffic Department Chief Majdi Imam claimed that the march obstructed traffic. He asked Bashar to disperse the march, to keep only 20 supporters, and not to shout any slogans. Although Bashar complied with these requests, police arrested 10 of his supporters. Moreover, supporters of the ruling National Democratic Party candidates beat the Islamist candidates' supporters and threw bricks at their cars.

UNIVERSITY STUDENTS PROTEST MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD TRIALS

A 500-word report by 'Abd-Hayy Muhammad on page 1 says students at al-Azhar and 'Ayn Shams universities staged noisy demonstrations on 11 November denouncing the military trials of Muslim Brotherhood members and asking President Mubarak to stop these trials immediately because they violate the Constitution. Numerous police forces surrounded the two universities and prevented the students from going into the streets allowing citizens join them.

POLICE ARREST 50 ISLAMIC GROUP MEMBERS IN QINA

A 150-word report on page 1 says the security services on 9 November arrested 50 Islamic Group [al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah] members in Farshut and Abu Tisht towns in Qina Governorate. The police suspect them of being involved in the recent attacks on two tourist trains in which 14 passengers, including two foreign tourists, were wounded. Security sources said police are continuing their efforts to apprehend three members of the Islamic Group's military wing. They are 'Abd-al-Mun'im al-Farshuti, Anwar Hamid 'Abbas, and Khalid al-Khallawi. Meanwhile, the Islamic Group issued a statement on 9 November claiming responsibility for the 8 November attack on the Aswan-Cairo tourist train in which two foreign tourists and an Egyptian citizen were injured.

EGYPT SAID CONCERNED OVER QATAR-ISRAEL GAS DEAL

A 150-word unattributed report on page 1 says "Egypt is Concerned" about the Qatari-Israeli gas deal concluded at the recent Economic Summit in Amman. An unidentified "economic source" described the deal as a "real threat" to Egypt's plans to export gas to Jordan and the "occupied territories."

NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY POPULARITY SAID DECLINING

A 600-word report by 'Imad Mahjub on page claims that the popularity of the National Democratic Party [NDP] candidates is declining despite government support. The NDP general secretariat has also failed to contain the "dissension" within the party caused by the exclusion of some candidates, who have decided to run as independents. The NDP general secretariat has fruitlessly tried to persuade the "dissidents" to withdraw their nominations and to accept the NDP's choices.

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ARAB LEAGUE OFFICIAL SAYS RABIN WAS NOT MAN OF PEACE

A 500-word report by Rabi' Shahin on page 1 cites 'Adnan 'Imran, Arab League assistant secretary general, as saying that the assassination of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin was a result of the "extremist Zionist thought," which was born with the establishment of the State of Israel. He added that the Israeli leaders have fed the Israeli citizens so much "extremist" slogans that the Israeli society is now governed by generals and rabbis. He gave as examples the breaking of the bones of the children of the intifadah, of which Rabin was proud, and the Mosad's assassination of Palestinian and Arab leaders. 'Imran said all these policies have formed a fertile ground for extremism. These policies have obstructed the peace process and created a "serious political vacuum" which has been filled in by extremists and terrorists. Imran said Rabin is a martyr in the eyes of his people and country because he did not hesitate to ignore all international and human ideals. We, the Arabs, do not consider him a "man of peace."

PROFILES OF FIVE LABOR PARTY CANDIDATES PUBLISHED

On page 2, the newspaper publishes profiles of five Labor Party candidates. They are Mukhtar Nuh, a candidate for al-Matariyah constituency in Cairo; Dr. Najla' al-Qalyubi, a female candidate for the Technical Institute constituency in Cairo; Muhammad Ibrahim Husayn, a candidate for the Mazghunah constituency in al-Jizah; Ibrahim 'Adil 'Abd-al-Malik, a candidate for the al-Muntazah constituency in Alexandria; and al-Sayyid Gharib, a candidate for the Port Said constituency.

LABOR PARTY REPUBLISHES ELECTORAL PROGRAM

On pages 6 and 7, the newspaper republishes the 4,500-word full text of the Labor Party electoral program. The program was first published in the 3 November issue of AL-SHA'B. The entire back page is allotted for the Labor Party's election slogan "Islam is the Solution."

Palestinian Affairs

Article: 'Home-Grown' Factors Led to Riyadh Blast

MM1711150895 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 16 Nov 95 p 11

[Article by Dr. Maha Azzam: "Saudi Blast's Causes Are Home-Grown"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Six months ago, a fax message received by one of the Islamic centers in London went beyond the normal limits in criticizing the ruling Saudi Royal Family and its close relations with the United States.

The fax sent by the "Armed Jihad Movement," a hitherto unknown organization, not only condemned the U.S. military presence in the Kingdom but also warned for the first time that it would attack the U.S. forces if they did not withdraw before a set date.

This was the beginning of a new phase.

The Monday blast, aimed at U.S. military personnel stationed in Riyadh, was described by many commentators as an unprecedented blow against the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, which is considered to be stable and safe.

However, the occupation of the Holy Mosque in Mecca in 1979, led by Juhayman al-'Utaybi of the Arabian Peninsula Peoples' Union, which lasted two weeks and was followed by an armed clash resulting in 130 deaths, highlighted the fact that opposition in Saudi Arabia could turn bloody.

The Monday blast was not only aimed at the United States but was also a symbolic attack on the National Guard led by Prince Abdallah, which is one of the main pillars of the regime.

Since the Gulf war, rich and stable Saudi Arabia has begun to face the same problems as those facing its poorer neighbors, such as a sluggish economy, rapid population growth, and a failure to heed calls for political openness or the fundamentalists' call for stricter adherence to the Islamic Shari'a and for reducing its close relations with the United States.

The equation adopted by the ruling royal family assumed that the state of welfare, supported by the vast oil money reserves, and the citizens' exemption from taxes would silence the internal opposition. Normal Saudis, however, along with opposition elements, have said that dissatisfaction in the kingdom stems from the rising level of corruption in high circles.

The normal Saudi citizen sees that he is being asked to tighten his belt while the rich carry on with their lavish spending.

Also, the Saudi rulers are being accused of having wasted large amounts of the country's money on arms deals which did not deter Iraq from attacking it during the Gulf war.

They are also being accused of wasting money on major public construction projects, allocated in return for huge commissions paid to them.

Saudi Arabia had two years of economic recession, but this situation has changed now after a relative

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improvement in oil prices. Despite that, according to statistics published by the British ECONOMIST magazine's Intelligence Unit, the balance of payments and budget deficit is now over 10 percent of the Kingdom's GNP, while the average annual per capita income does not exceed $7,000.

It is a fact that the presence of U.S. forces on Saudi territories after the Gulf war has exacerbated the clerics' indignation and anger.

The main question being asked since the Monday blast is whether this indicates the emergence of groups which are prepared to resort to violence to achieve their objectives.

Because of the Kingdom's autocratic nature and its history of buying oppositionists, it is difficult for anyone to evaluate the support that any violent opposition group can expect to gain.

It is reasonable to assume that the 450,000 Shiites in the oil-producing Eastern Province are not very fond of the government despite its recent attempts to please them.

There is also a growing core of dissatisfaction with the government by Islamic fundamentalism, which is voiced in sermons in the mosques.

Even the middle class, despite its non-fundamentalist outlook, does not show any sympathy for the government and is demanding more accountability with regard to the rulers' performance, in other words it wants some form of participation in the government. Consequently, and if there is no substantial increase in oil prices in the medium term, the government will find it more difficult — perhaps even impossible — to face these forces and placate them.

This does not mean, however, that the Saudi Government is faced with an opposition on the same scale as that in Algeria or Egypt. Nevertheless, the Monday blast points to the presence of symptoms which could turn into an earthquake.

The reasons for the opposition's growth are essentially home-grown. Western analysts always tend to focus on the dangers which threaten the oil supplies to the West. They forget, however, that any regime in Saudi Arabia will be compelled to export oil in order to survive economically, therefore, we can say that talk in the West about threats to the oil supplies is exaggerated.

The main achievement of the House of Sa'ud was to unite a tribal region and transform it into a modern state. Thus the danger of the escalation in the opposition in Saudi Arabia resides in the fact that it could lead to the Kingdom's fragmentation.

The opposition's growth is somewhat the result of disproportionate development, the rulers' refusal to allow more [political] participation for the citizens, and their refusal to control corruption more strictly or bring some balance to their relations with the West, and especially the United States.

And if the Kingdom established by Ibn-Sa'ud is capable of facing up to the modern challenges, it will then really deserve to live.

Opposition Leaders Comment on Rabin's Slaying

JN1911162495 Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 6 Nov 95 pp 1,2

[Report by Mazin 'Abd-al-'Aziz]

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad — Palestinian leaders consider the slaying of Yitzhaq Rabin at the hand of a Zionist extremist the day before yesterday as more proof of the Zionist entity's false claim of being an oasis of democracy. They assert that the fate that met this criminal at the hands of a member of his own racist creed will have a severe impact on the Zionist entity, which itself has been established through murder.

Mahmud Isma'il, alias Abu-Isma'il, member of the PLO Executive Committee, commented on the assassination incident by saying: This major incident confirms the basic truth held by our Palestinian and Arab people that the so-called peace is no more than theatrics, and that those in charge are not serious since they do not believe in peace in the first place. Their record, especially that of Rabin, is full of incidents which contradict peace, he said.

In an exclusive statement to AL-JUMHURIYAH, Abu-Isma'il added: Rabin was a member of a fascist Zionist gang. He took part in the killing, butchering, and displacement of our Palestinian people in 1948. He was chief of staff during the 1967 occupation of the rest of Palestine, the Golan, and Sinai. He was also the one who broke the bones of the heroic children of the stones of the Intifadah. A person with such a record could not have been serious about peace and instrumental in its achievement.

Rakad Salim, secretary of the Arab Liberation Front, said that It was God's will for this criminal to meet his fate at the hands of a member of his own creed, and with such a severe impact. He added: This is the end facing every criminal whose hands are stained with the blood of our Arab and Palestinian people. His record is full of crimes of murdering and displacing Palestinians. It is sufficient that he was the one behind the idea of breaking the bones of the children of the stones of the intifadah.

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Salim asserted: The slaying of Rabin has come as the natural outcome of the crimes which this murderer had committed since his birth. He was the one who, as defense minister in the Likud Government, ordered the occupation forces to use live ammunition to suppress the Intifadah. He was also the one who personally ordered the assassination of struggler Fathi al-Shaqaqi, secretary general of the Islamic Jihad Movement in Palestine. Moreover, he was the one who issued daily orders to attack our kinfolk and people in southern Lebanon, and the one who, as enemy chief of staff in 1967, committed crimes and carried out massacres in Gaza and the West Bank to force our people to leave and seek refuge in other Arab states. It was the will of God, who defers but does not withhold punishment, that this criminal received the just punishment he deserved for his crimes.

Salim said that he did not expect any change to take place in the settlement process with Rabin's absence from the scene of events, adding: It is useful to remember the fact that if Yitzhaq Rabin had signed the Tabah agreement with the PLO, the extremist Likud leader Begin had also signed the Camp David agreements, he added. Salim considered the emergence of the phenomenon of violence in Zionist society as the beginning of the end of this imported, alien entity which has been planted on our Arab land. He said: This phenomenon refutes the enemy's fallacy that it is an oasis of democracy and signifies the imminent dismantling of the Zionist entity from within and the blatant violation of the very sanctities which the enemy has defended to safeguard his society.

Nasif 'Awwad, member of the PLO Central Council and Palestine National Council, said: The slaying of Rabin at the hands of a Zionist reflects the true mentality dominating this entity, which rejects peace and even this fragile settlement process, which some Palestinians and Arabs have accepted. He added: This settlement gave the Zionists rights which they never dreamed of, but gave nothing to the Palestinians and Arabs. Even this settlement was not accepted by the Zionist mentality. 'Awwad pointed out that the slaying of Rabin, and before that al-Sadat, confirms one major point; namely, that the so-called peace process is not peace, which is based on acceptable legal bases, but a criminal act which the United States and world Zionism want to enforce in order to establish their hegemony over all the Arab homeland, not just the occupied Palestinian territory.

Bilal Qasim, official in charge of political relations in the Palestine Liberation Front, said Rabin's slaying indicates that the Zionist entity is a non-democratic, fanatical, and extremist society, and that the democracy it claims is a false one. Proof, he added, is that Rabin was slain by a fellow extremist Zionist. Qasim continued: We must not forget Rabin's personal record as an extremist Zionist. He was one of the founders of this entity. He was also a member of the terrorist Haganah organization which had a long record of crimes in murdering and displacing our Palestinian people, Lebanese kinfolk, and our people in the other neighboring states. We must not forget also that the assassination of martyr Fathi al-Shaqaqi was carried out by direct orders from Rabin. Qasim asserted that the slaying of Rabin signifies the dismantling of Israeli society and proves that this society wants only a peace which is according to its own way and serving its own purpose. Regarding the effect of Rabin's slaying on the peace process, Qasim said the current political settlement process will be affected by his slaying.

Peres' Adherence to Redeployment Timetable Viewed

TA2011172395 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM TIMES in English 17 Nov 95 p 4

[Editorial: "Shocks and Sureties"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Despite the grave anxiety that shook the region after the assassination of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, redeployment, after a brief delay, has continued as scheduled. This single act in itself helped ameliorate the political mood, and reversed the political argument that self-government is confined only to Gaza and Jericho.

The convening of the Executive Committee of the PLO in Cairo, with a full attendance for the first time since the Oslo Accords (except for the three members who resigned), indicates that the Taba Agreement has led to reevaluation inside the various political streams in the Palestinian national movement.

The continuing talks between the PNA [Palestinian National Authority] and Hamas are leading to new positive ground for cooperation and may eventually lead to Hamas' participation in the coming elections. The national political mood has seen more support for the PNA and the peace process.

The presence of the first contingent of international observers of the electoral process is fanning the interest of the Palestinian public in regards to the coming elections. In every corner of Palestine, the main issue of discussion is the elections and the prospective candidates.

This does not mean that the problems and difficulties facing the Palestinian people, the PNA, and the economy have all been solved — far from it. Such issues are surfacing daily, but there is a renewed enthusiasm in dealing with them and attempting to resolve them.

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The expectations are that for the first time, the Israeli Government, as promised by Mr. Peres, now Prime Minister, will also stick to the timetable of redeployment that will allow for the first national elections in Palestine and the opening of a new chapter of responsibility and accountability in government.

'Arafat Receives Australian Message, EU Envoy

JN2011181995 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1400 GMT 20 Nov 95

[Report by 'Adil al-Za'nun in Gaza]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Australian Government has asserted its support for the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and establishing an independent Palestinian alongside the state of Israel. This was stated in a message the Australian foreign minister sent to President Yasir 'Arafat via the Australian ambassador, who visited Gaza and met with 'Arafat at the Presidential Office this afternoon.

This assertion is extremely important, especially at this stage when the National Authority is taking over the remaining portions of the West Bank in implementation of the second part of the Declaration of Principles agreement.

The Australian foreign minister congratulated President 'Arafat and the National Authority [NA] on the signing of Taba agreement in Washington recently. He also congratulated 'Arafat on the seventh anniversary of the declaration of Palestinian independence.

In another development, President 'Arafat received the European Union's [EU] representative (Thomas Douglas) at the Presidential Office in Gaza this afternoon. The two discussed preparations for a visit to the NA areas next week by a European delegation to sign an agreement between the NA and the EU on assistance the latter will extend during the next two years. 'Arafat and Douglas also discussed Palestinian-European relations and the means of boosting them.

'Arafat, Saudi Prince Sultan View Relations, Peace

JN2011205395 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1900 GMT 20 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A telephone contact was held today between President Yasir 'Arafat and Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, Saudi second deputy prime minister and defense and aviation minister. The conversation dealt with Palestinian-Saudi relations and the latest developments in the peace process.

'Arafat Vows Action To Amend Covenant

TA1911095195 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 19 Nov 95 p 2

[Report by Elli Wohlgelernter]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat said last night that he will urge and encourage the Palestine National Council to remove the clause in the Palestinian Covenant calling for Israel's destruction, and will personally work towards its removal.

Speaking to an Anti-Defamation League [ADL] delegation in Gaza, 'Arafat said his use of the word "jihad" in his speeches not only meant a holy war involving fighting, but also can be used in terms of peace.

"We asked the chairman to engage as much as possible in words of understanding and reconciliation," said ADL National Director Abraham Foxman.

"The chairman talked in terms of the jihad for peace so that the word jihad as we know it can be converted into the jihad of peace."

'Arafat told the visiting delegation, which included ADL National Chairman David Strassler and Israel director Harry Wall, that he was to meet with members of the Islamic Jihad later in the evening, and that he would precondition any agreement with the organization, including elections, on their forswearing violence and terrorism. [passage omitted]

'Arafat Approves Party Founded by Former Hamas Members

TA2011123295 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 20 Nov 95 p A9

[Report by 'Amira Hess and Ori Nir]

[FBIS Translated Text] Two days ago, Palestinian Authority [PA] Chairman Yasir 'Arafat gave his consent to the establishment of a new political party called the National Islamic Salvation Party. A delegation of its founders, people who have so far been known as members of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], met 'Arafat two days ago, on the eve of his departure for Janin, and presented him with the request to establish the party.

One of the founders and party chairman is Dr. Isma'il Abu-Shanab, an engineer who served eight months in prison in 1989 for serving as chairman of the Hamas executive department. The party's political bureau is made up of 14 members, including two women.

This, as Dr. Mahmud al-Zahhar announced in recent weeks, does not turn Hamas into a political party; it

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is a step taken by movement members. According to Hamas activists, the idea of forming a party is not new. Discussions on establishing a legitimate political party were held as early as during the deportations of Hamas members to south Lebanon in December 1992. A source affiliated with the party founders, however, said that the party "is not affiliated with any other movement or party," hinting that it is not the political arm of Hamas.

A source in the founders' delegation has said that "several reasons motivated us to take the initiative and establish a party, the main one being our desire to take part in political life and to build our homeland, while stressing the way of Islam and the desire to eliminate lines of division." The founders hope their party will be "the main Islamic trend in Palestine and represent Islamic hopes."

The founders include over 100 Gaza Strip residents. Deputy chairman is Ahmad al-Sa'ati, head of the Islamic University public relations department and a professor of English. Party secretary is Attorney Frayj al-Ghul, and the two women on the political bureau are Maryam al-Nashir and Jamilah al-Shanti.

Over the past two months, former Hamas members have announced the establishment of two national-Islamic parties; Gazans, however, have never considered them important, believing they are false movements founded with the encouragement (and funding) of the authorities. It is known that some of the founders of the new party have been constantly making statements, which paved their way to the latter move, referring to the need to organize and adjust their activities to the new situation created upon the establishment of the PA.

At the same time, Hamas issued a new communique yesterday reiterating that the movement will not take part in the elections and calling on the Palestinian nation to boycott them.

Sources associated with Hamas in the territories explained yesterday that the new party does not belong to Hamas, but to the Muslim Brotherhood. Although Hamas is the Palestinian branch of the Muslim Brotherhood (as the movement's foundation covenant says), the party — as described by its founders — is a subsidiary of the brotherhood, not Hamas.

The reason for this is the fact that the Hamas leadership is looking for ways to bypass the PA demand that Hamas turn into a political party and distinguish between negotiating with the PA and setting up an Islamic party that would run in the elections. Hamas does not want to become a party, but seeks to remain a nonparliamentary movement.

Hamas Statement Urges Boycott of Elections

JN2011182495 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1750 GMT 20 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, has issued a political statement on the so-called elections to be held by the limited self-rule authority, asserting that these elections will be constrained by the provisions of the Oslo and Taba accords, which disavowed our people's rights, undermined our cause, and overlooked several crucial elements of our conflict with the heartless Zionist enemy.

The Hamas statement added that the council to be elected will be a mere product of these weak accords. Its prerogatives, tasks, characteristics, and work mechanisms will remain hostage to the Zionist enemy.

The statement reiterated Hamas' opposition to participation in these elections. Hamas urged our people's masses and their Islamic and national forces to boycott this conspiratorial tragicomedy, which targets our people's just cause.

Islamic Activist: Movement To Boycott Elections

TA1911165095 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 16 Nov 95 p 2

[Interview with Shaykh Nizar Ramadan, one of the Marj al-Zuhur deportees, by Jamal al-Shuwayki in Hebron; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] [al-Shuwayki] Many are asking if the Islamic movement has changed its declared position on the elections?

[Ramadan] Clearly, the needs of this phase demand a balanced Palestinian understanding. This is something that requires the Islamic movement not to be too far from the political arena, especially since it enjoys a popular base because of its performance and firm beliefs. Perhaps the Palestinian future is one of the most important issues that preoccupies the Islamic movement. This imposes on it responsibilities and tasks which it must uphold. Its rejection of the Madrid and Oslo process was intended to preserve the interest of the homeland and the people, because this political plan does not realize the minimal freedom.

The Islamic movement respects all political opinions and tendencies, whether they agree or disagree with its idea.

The movement views the Palestinian National Authority as a political reality irrespective of how it came about. The Islamic movement has the right to conduct a dialogue which serves the peoples' interest provided

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that this dialogue is not held at the expense of the movement's strategy and ideology.

The movement will never participate in the Palestinian elections, because that will mean recognition of Madrid and Oslo. Even if we do not participate in the elections, this should not prevent the Islamic movement from conducting dialogue for the sake of the people's interest.

[Al-Shuwayki] Some quarters are saying that in the event the Islamic movement boycotts the elections, it will support candidates behind the scene.

[Ramadan] I neither believe nor expect that a movement that will boycott the elections out of its political beliefs will support anyone even if he is an independent. The reason is that the conviction to boycott the elections is a principled conviction, not tactical. What the movement does not desire for itself, it does not desire for others.

[Al-Shuwayki] As a resident who is observing what is going on in terms of organizations and coalitions, what is your assessment of this?

[Ramadan] The elections, as many people wish to believe, is devoid of real competition. The tribal, rather than the political aspect, plays the major role despite the fact that there is some political impact. If there is some enthusiasm, I attribute that to the fact that people consider elections a first and new experiment in their political life. I am completely convinced that the majority of people are ignorant of the details and aspects of the elections law.

[Al-Shuwayki] It is being said that the Islamic movement is divided in its views. According to reports, the outside is becoming more adamant about boycotting the elections, the movement inside is about to agree to participate.

[Ramadan] There is no split in the Islamic movement between inside and outside. Moreover, there is an exaggeration in raising the issue of the so-called doves and hawks factions in the Islamic movement.

The fact that a citizen should realize is that the Islamic movement's guidelines are ideological rather than political and tactical. This requires its members to adhere to religious decrees. Hence, I believe that the movement's dialogue with the Authority and others stems from the logic of religious interest which the people's future demands.

[Al-Shuwayki] Is the Islamic movement's stance regarding nonparticipation limited to legislative elections or to all elections?

[Ramadan] The movement's clear position — nonparticipation in legislative elections — does not apply to private and public organizations and institutions, because participation in them is not considered political but participation in serving society within framework of the laws and regulations of the institutions themselves. This kind of participation has no relation with the peace process.

[Al-Shuwayki] What sort of activities will the Islamic movement have in the event that it boycotts the elections?

[Ramadan] I believe that one of the most important tasks in the history of the Palestinian people is safeguarding its blood and cohesion because this is sacred to any Palestinian who acts honestly and sincerely.

The Islamic movement must be wise in its opposition to and boycott of the elections. This opposition should be democratic and peaceful and should not deprive the other parties of their right to participate in the elections if they are convinced of that.

'Abd-Rabbuh Urges Participation in Elections

JN2111115195 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0500 GMT 21 Nov 95

[Telephone interview with Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, information minister in the Palestinian Authority, by Fathi al-Barqawi; place not given; from the "A New Day" feature—live]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [al-Barqawi] Mr. Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, good morning.

['Abd-Rabbuh] Good morning to you.

[Al-Barqawi] The registration of voters is taking place throughout the homeland, however, there are still some citizens who are unaware of the dimensions of this operation. Can we explain this to our citizens?

['Abd-Rabbuh] I can say that the registration process is proceeding in an excellent way. The Palestinian citizens in the various areas are responding in a positive manner. I will not be exaggerating when I say that hundreds of thousands of citizens have already registered their names. The committees for registering voters are working at full strength. From our part, perhaps we somewhat failed to explain through the media the importance of citizens' registration in the voter registers. This caused some confusion in some areas.

I believe that there is an important issue we should continue to explain to our Palestinian sisters and brothers, particularly in Jerusalem.

There is a problem with respect to Jerusalem. Citizens there are hearing unfounded and inaccurate news and rumors that cast doubt on the question of registering for the elections. Some have even said that registering

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for the elections could affect the identity card held by Jerusalem citizens. Of course, this is completely false. The registration for the elections has nothing to do with the identity card or the rights enjoyed by the citizen, whether these rights are in the field of health, education, social security, or other fields. This is something different. The registration completes these rights. The citizen will obtain another right, the right of being a citizen who has the right to be elected and to vote. Under the [Palestinian-Israeli] agreements, every citizen in Jerusalem has the right to run for election and to vote. This is one of the additional guarantees securing the rights of our citizens in Jerusalem. The failure of some to register their names could affect their status while those who register will confirm their status as inhabitants of Jerusalem.

The Jerusalem constituency is not restricted to the current administrative division of Jerusalem. The Jerusalem constituency comprises the villages and areas located east, west, north, and south of Jerusalem; from Abu-Dis to al-Jib, to Bayt-Iksa, and all the villages and Palestinian locations around Jerusalem. That is why it is very important for the Jerusalem inhabitants to register for the elections. The percentage, so far, is good, but we want here to reply to these rumors which seek to obstruct the registration of all the citizens in Jerusalem.

[Al-Barqawi] We also should not forget the national dimension, brother Yasir?

['Abd-Rabbuh] Of course, this is a basic issue because of national affiliation, the national bond, and the emphasis that our Palestinian people in Jerusalem are part of the Palestinian people and that they have the same cause. We should also not forget the preparation for the final status stage of the negotiations which should take place less than one year from now; negotiations should start at that time. All this takes place on the basis that Jerusalem is ours, that the Jerusalem issue is not separate from the national cause of the Palestinian people and from their right to end the occupation of their land and establish their independent state with Jerusalem as capital. [passage omitted]

Qaddumi Reportedly Supports 20 Jan Elections

JN2011180895 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1400 GMT 20 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A spokesman for Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, has denied Qaddumi called for boycotting the legislative elections. The spokesman confirmed that Qaddumi supports the elections, which are scheduled for 20 January.

Fatah Forms Committees for Legislative Elections

JN2111092395 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0600 GMT 21 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Central Committee of the Palestine National Liberation Movement, Fatah, announced yesterday evening the formation of a council to oversee the elections process.

The council comprises members from the Central Committee and the Fatah Revolutionary Council who are in the homeland, and prominent Fatah figures in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

At a meeting yesterday chaired by His Excellency President Yasir 'Arafat, the Fatah Central Committee tasked Sakhr Habash to act as the Council's secretary. It also set up the following subcommittees:

1. The political subcommittee headed by Mahmud 'Abbas, Abu Mazin.
2. The information subcommittee headed by Dr. Nabil Sha'th.
3. The organizational subcommittee for the West Bank headed by Faysal al-Husayni.
4. The organizational subcommittee for the Gaza Strip headed by Dr. Zakariya al-Agha.
5. The financial subcommittee headed by Ahmad Quray', Abu-'Ala'.
6. The subcommittee on women headed by Mrs. Intisar al-Wazir, Umm Jihad.
7. The committee for following up the work of the subcommittees headed by Sakhr Habash.

The Council and subcommittees said they would remain in session until they fulfill the tasks entrusted to them.

The Fatah Central Committee also asked several of its members to run for the legislative elections. It also discussed the legislative elections issue and the movement's organizational work in all fields.

Fatah's al-Hasan Urges Unity in 'Next Phase'

MM2011141895 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 18 Nov 95 p 4

[Interview with Hani al-Hasan, member of the Fatah Central Committee, by Husayn Hijazi in Gaza; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Hijazi] Your return is seen as the surest indication of the collapse of the Palestinian opposition abroad over the Oslo agreement.

[Al-Hasan] We shall let history be the judge because there is a vast difference between the historian and the politician. The historian is the one who determines

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whether a position is correct, whereas the politician's concern is always to create or control events. However, I am still proud of belonging to this opposition. In the past, we tried to thwart the Oslo agreement, but today we all have to face up to the fact that the Oslo agreement has now been put into practice, and any talk of ending this agreement is inconsistent with the facts. I find that, as an opposition, we must admit this fact. My return to the homeland is an entirely different matter, because, at some point, the politician must ascertain the relationship between the position and the geographical location. In any case, I believe that a change of geographical location has no connection with a change of political position. Some brothers in the opposition, namely 'Abd-al-Rahim Malluh and Taysir Khalid, have expressed the wish to return [to the homeland], and are awaiting approval of their request. I have conveyed their request to brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat].

[Hijazi] Do you think that the Oslo agreement, when viewed from inside, from Gaza, differs from the way it is perceived from abroad? Do you feel, for example, that an inside view would correct some ideas or confirm them?

[Al-Hasan] It is too early to say. Nevertheless, I have not found any surprises that exceed my expectations, except perhaps for the very personal feeling when I crossed the first Palestinian checkpoint after the border and saw the Palestinian flag. This was a moving moment and my feeling was that here I am, for the first time, master in my own land. Apart from that, I was, and still am, convinced of three facts: First, that the Oslo agreement, despite the dangers that it entails, has now been put into practice. Second, that the issue is how to ready ourselves and prepare for the battle of the final solution, and third, I believe that we must all join forces, inside [the territories] and abroad, and agree on how to conduct this battle, because the outcome of the final phase of negotiations will be with us for a long time, as a permanent solution safeguarded by both world and regional order.

[Hijazi] Does this mean that you are ready to participate in the final solution negotiations, if asked?

[Al-Hasan] Personally, I was never against the principle of negotiations or a political settlement. From the outset, I was opposed to the method. I believed and still do that it was not right to conduct negotiations on the basis of the invitation card sent to us and which left doors open. I believed that there was some risk in it. The facts have today proved the correctness of our views, in view of the Oslo agreement's negative aspects, such as the settlements remaining, the tortuous methods, the backtracking on Resolution 242, the regional divide between the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, etc.... I have discussed these negative aspects with Abu-'Ammar, who did not deny them. However, he always sees his position as that of a cyclist who cannot stop moving. In spite of that, let me tell you now that taking over Janin and Tulkarm and later the West bank's other cities has perhaps removed some of the fears that perhaps Gaza and Jericho were first and last. This means that we must look to the future more than the past. There is no doubt that I view the final solution negotiations as a battle which concerns everyone, and that we must find a way to involve everyone in it.

[Hijazi] It was noted that your return coincided with the start of the redeployment. Was this just a coincidence?

[Al-Hasan] No, it was not a coincidence. In fact, I believe that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's death is the start of important and serious regional interactions which, because of Peres' mentality, could accelerate the establishment of a regional order, with positive or negative repercussions on us Palestinians. There are some positive advantages to addressing regional affairs, but there are also serious dangers, and if we do not hasten to unite, we could end up being the victims of this solution. Consequently, I realized that I had to return here immediately, because the unusual has now become the norm and the Palestinians have now become an important part in rebuilding the regional order. If this is imminent, we must, as an element in this, know the price, so that the game is not at our expense. And because political action is always where the people are, it is not possible to participate in or control this battle from outside. That is why I am here.

[Hijazi] Today, talk in the Palestinian streets is about the elections battle. Are you thinking of entering it or being a candidate?

[Al-Hasan] We in the Fatah movement have agreed to organize two meetings, the first to be held this week, including members of the Central Committee, the Revolutionary Council, and the Fatah leadership committees in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip to discuss three issues: First, whether Central Committee members will participate in the elections. Second, whether military elements will participate in them, and if they do and are not successful, whether they will rejoin their posts. And finally, whether [Palestine] National Council members should be candidates in the elections. I will then define my position according to the decisions taken on these issues. The second meeting will be held at the end of this month in Tunis in the presence of all Central Committee members, to take a final decision with regard to the elections.

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[Hijazi] Your return is seen in Palestinian Authority [PA] circles as a positive sign of change in the track, and your presence here was welcomed with visible satisfaction by the Palestinian opposition inside. Do both sides attach importance to a special role for you in the forthcoming dialogue between the PA and the opposition?

[Al-Hasan] As I said, the current situation requires all Palestinians to unite in order to control the handling of the final solution. I always discuss with Abu-'Ammar the issue of national unity so that the outcome of the permanent solution is really what we want, that is to say to achieve our objectives by establishing an independent Palestinian state, put an end to the settlements, achieve geographical unity, and establish a confederation with the brothers in Jordan. I believe it is necessary to accelerate the reactivation of dialogue with the Hamas movement, that this dialogue should not be just a cease-fire but should go further in finding a way to define the points of agreement and identify the points of disagreement, especially as we are about to enter what is, by any standards, a major battle. There are the elections, and there are the final solution negotiations and the arrangements for a regional solution. We must unite in order to embark on all these, because their outcome will affect the fate of Palestinians for many years to come. In the discussions I had with brother Abu-'Ammar, there was a clear consensus over all these points. A phase has ended in the history of the Palestinians who must now combine their efforts in readiness for the next phase.

DFLP's Hawatimah on Riyadh, Islamabad Bombings

NC2111081195 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 21 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP], has said that the Riyadh and Islamabad explosions stress that as long as the Zionist occupation and U.S. presence in the region remain, the tense atmosphere will continue. Further details on Hawatimah's statement are reported by our correspondent Hani Fakhr-al-Din:

[Begin recording] [Fakhr-al-Din] In an exclusive statement to the Voice of the Oppressed, DFLP Secretary General Nayif Hawatimah commented on the Riyadh explosion and the bombing of the Egyptian embassy in Pakistan. He said: As long as the Zionist occupation continues, and the U.S. Administration is deceiving the peoples of the region, the regimes in the Arab nation, and the so-called Middle East, such explosions cannot but be expected. Hawatimah said the U.S. Administration is fooling the peoples of the region, covering up the truth of the aggressive Zionist entity, and providing support for this entity. He warned the rulers of the region, especially those rushing toward this usurper enemy, that if they continue the rush and the normalization [with Israel], they will wake up to the sound of more and greater explosions.

Hawatimah called for an end to this rushing toward normalization with the enemy, which is still occupying territory and shelling and destroying regions in southern Lebanon, Western al-Biqa', and Palestine. He said:

[Hawatimah] As long as the occupation of our country continues, we have legitimate rights to be armed by popular, political, and diplomatic resistance. This is in line with the UN charter and the peoples' sacred right to end the occupation and wrest their independence. [end recording] [passage omitted]

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Algeria

Government Council, Commission Praise Elections

LD1811191195 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 18 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Mokdad Sifi today presided over a meeting of the Government Council and the government commission in charge of preparing for the presidential elections to assess the voting process on 16 November 1995.

The Government Council and the government commission in charge of preparing for the presidential elections concluded that the election process took place in good circumstances throughout its stages due to the mobilization of all material, human, and security means, and to the huge participation of the electoral body.

It was noted during the Government Council's meeting that the election process, which took place in a transparent, democratic, pluralistic, and free [atmosphere], fell within the framework of the transitional institutions' defined goals as stipulated by the national accord platform.

The government [council] and the government commission in charge of preparing for the presidential elections saluted the Algerian people's mobilization and patriotism, and prided itself on this electoral consultation, which expressed national harmony in consolidating democratic pluralism and the political freedom of expression, and opened new prospects for getting out of the crisis.

FLN Issues Statement on Elections

LD2111073895 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 21 Nov 95

[Statement issued by the Political Bureau of the National Liberation Front; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] The FLN [National Liberation Front] has always underlined the need for priority in ending the cycle of violence in the search for a solution to the crisis. The FLN also believes that the popular turnout in the elections carried a strong and clear message demanding escape from the logic of armed confrontation between Algerians, the cessation of bloodshed, and a return to peace, tranquillity, and stability.

The statement adds that in order to help resolve the crisis, the elections should be strengthened by a clear political orientation which is harmonious with the people's desires for peace, freedom, and democracy. The FLN believes that true dialogue between the political forces remains the only way to take the country out of its crisis, and assesses the results as showing the people wish to mobilize so as to confront the challenges facing the country.

The statement concludes by saying that the FLN remains prepared to contribute toward finding a comprehensive political solution with all partners, be it the authorities or the opposition, and to achieving national reconciliation by widening the circle of consultation with all political and social forces.

Al-Nahdah Leader Comments on Election

MM1711154895 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 17 Nov 95 p 4

[Interview with Shaykh 'Abdallah Djaballah, leader of the al-Nahdah Movement, by Mukhtar Badri in Rome; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Badri] How do you view the presidential elections in your country? Are they a step toward resolving the crisis or a factor for complicating it, and why are you boycotting them?

[Djaballah] Those enthusiastic for the elections claim that the elections are a step toward resolving the crisis on the pretext that the elections would lead to solving the problem of the illegitimacy of the regime and helping to free the president's hands from all shackles except those of the Constitution and the law in force in the country. We believe that this would be the case if the decision to organize the elections had been issued in coordination with the political partners and if the security, political, informational, and administrative conditions were in place.

Anyone who follows the course of the crisis and the regime's way of handling it will find that the regime has pursued a policy of boycott. This policy is characterized by an eagerness to ensure that its views prevail and that others make concessions as a condition for reaching an agreement. It [the regime] has linked the crisis with individuals, focusing on disputed issues and making threats. And it has worked to make gains for the eradicationist party at the expense of the Islamic and nationalist party. It opened all the files and has not closed them. It has also continued to pursue the policy of committing excesses against people and property, insisting on using force to tackle the security situation and organize the presidential elections unilaterally.

Current security, political, informational, and administrative conditions are not favorable for holding free and democratic elections. Because the national scene is witnessing a serious security escalation that has resulted in scores being killed or wounded. The political estrangement between the regime and the opposition is widening by the day as a result of the defamatory media campaign

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and the lack of the freedom to organize partisan rallies and activities. All this has caused citizens to feel that conditions are not favorable for holding the elections safe from compulsion, rigging, electoral violence, and all illegal practices. [passage omitted]

[Badri] What is your opinion of Shaykh Mahfoud Nahnah's candidacy.

[Djaballah] His position is not alien to us. It is in line with his option in political action. He has adopted the option of participating in the regime. He has pursued a policy compatible with this option since the election march was suspended. Anyone following his stances and statements is fully aware of this. So it is not strange for him to participate in the elections. However, we believe that his position is in favor of the regime's candidate and consolidates the regime's policies. He has secured a victory for him, giving precedence to the party's interests over the interests of the religion, the homeland, and the future of political freedoms in the country. [passage omitted]

[Badri] What are the most important features of your party's and the national covenant group's program for the post-presidential elections stage?

[Djaballah] All the parties to the national covenant believe in the need to meet to assess the past stage and to draw up plans for future action and moves. But no moves have yet been made to embody this. Perhaps the general feeling among all is that the covenant is still valid because the crisis is still there. Because the situation in the country urgently needs a comprehensive, just, and peaceful political endeavor to provide security, bring an end to infighting, and restore peace and democracy. All that remains is for the group to develop its working methods. And to develop and reactivate the covenant and expand the circle of its supporters. [passage omitted]

Says Results 'Not a Surprise'

MM2011162195 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 19 Nov 95 pp 1, 6

[Report by Jamal Khashuqji: "Al-Nahdah Leader Tells AL-HAYAH: Opposition Will Participate in Legislative Elections"]

[FBIS Translated Text] London — 'Abdallah Djaballah, leader of the Islamic al-Nahdah Movement in Algeria and a prominent leader of the National Covenant group, expects the parties which have signed the Rome agreement to participate on a large-scale in the legislative elections which the elected President Liamine Zeroual is believed will call next year. In a statement to AL-HAYAH he announced his willingness to cooperate with Zeroual "if he changes his policy and engages in a real dialogue with the opposition without excluding any influential party."

Djaballah said that "the recent elections do not change the political map of the Algerian parties. This map was drawn by the canceled (1992) legislative elections. The claim that the political map has changed, and that popular support for some parties has weakened while it has strengthened for others, is meaningless. It is legislative elections, not presidential elections, that determine the parties' strength and popularity. Thus the National Covenant parties still represent the majority until another legislative election has been held."

Asked whether the presidential elections produced surprises, he said that "the results were not a surprise. I even anticipated the level of people's participation. We preferred not to participate in elections in which the winner was known beforehand. The most important surprise was the scale of the real people's participation, which was better than what the quarters concerned in the regime had expected."

He attributed the high participation level to the fact that "the government-controlled media focused on saying that the elections would be a real start for a political and security breakthrough as regards the crisis in general. So the people, who are tired of the deteriorating situation in the country, participated, clinging to this weak hope. They were also encouraged by the expatriates' large-scale participation, in addition to the regime's pressure, especially after rumors were spread to the effect that citizens would need to produce their voting cards in any administrative dealings with the government. The cards were stamped after they had cast their votes." Djaballah criticized the failure of the FLN "struggle grassroots" to comply with the boycott decision. "These grassroots participated on a large-scale in bolstering (President) Zeroual."

Regarding the al-Nahdah Movement's position on recent developments, he said that "we are committed to the principle of cooperating with the opposition in the National Covenant framework. Our position depends on how the head of state is going to handle the crisis. If he hastens to secure a real solution without excluding any party, he will encounter full support from us. But if he continues to pursue the policy adopted before the elections, the opposition will continue its efforts to organize a real dialogue to resolve the crisis."

As for his expectations regarding the state's policy after the elections, he said that "I expect the regime to amend the political associations (parties) laws in order to adapt the positions of some parties to the new reality, especially with regard to cultural identity, hence

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the amendment of the elections law by introducing the proportional ticket to enable the regime to prevent a particular party from winning the majority of the votes in the parliament. I do not rule out that Zeroual might seek to form a political party to support his steps and to engage in a dialogue with the opposition to discuss the issue of organizing the legislative elections. But we urge Zeroual to honor the pledges he made during his election campaign, namely to work to resolve the crisis fully through a real dialogue with the opposition and the influential quarters in the country without excluding any party, in order to secure a comprehensive solution."

Asked whether he was surprised by the fact that the second presidential candidate, Islamic Society Movement "HAMAS" leader Mahfoud Nahnah, won 25 percent of the votes, he said: "I had expected that Nahnah would get 20 percent of the votes, but he received more votes. This does not reflect the entire Islamic vote, since HAMAS is one of the factions in the Algerian Islamic tendency". Asked whether the exclusion of Said Sadi, who represents the eradicationist tendency and obtained only 9 percent of the votes, is a victory for those working for dialogue, he said: "We hope so. It all depends on Zeroual. He is the decisionmaker, and we will be watching his decisions."

FIS Leader in Europe Says Ready for Zeroual Talks

LD2011150295 Paris Radio France International in French 1230 GMT 20 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Liamine Zeroual is undoubtedly a valid partner for a dialogue with the Algerian opposition — this is what the head of the leadership of the outlawed Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] in Europe said today. However, Rabeh Kebir expects President Zeroual to release political prisoners, including the leaders of the FIS.

Discusses Possible Dialogue

NC2011192595 London MBC Television in Arabic 1800 GMT 20 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Algeria's Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] underlined today its desire to enter into a dialogue with President Liamine Zeroual. The FIS spokesman abroad, Rabeh Kebir, regards Zeroual as the true president of Algeria.

Most Algerian opposition parties in Algeria have changed their comments on the presidential elections and their outcome, with the banned FIS foremost among them. This was evident from the first reactions to President Zeroual's election. For the first time, the FIS regarded Zeroual as the representative of real power in the country and expressed its willingness to enter into a dialogue with him to settle the conflict that has claimed the lives of tens of thousands.

[Begin Kebir recording] We have said that there should be a dialogue and negotiations between the true opposition and the regime to end the country's crisis; there is no other way out. Regarding conditions, there must be seriousness to end the crisis. There should be a dialogue and negotiations between the parties on a free and equitable basis, and also on the basis that we want to restore peace and security. [end recording]

Rabah Kebir discussed the Algerian people's desire to have peace and security, which they showed by voting. But he did not make reference to the people voting out of rejection for violence and killing.

[Begin Kebir recording] We believe that Algerians — both those who voted and those who did not — want peace. The common denominator today is that the people want to see peace and stability restored. This is what FIS and its political partners in the opposition want. [end recording]

President Zeroual, following his election, stressed that he will be the president of all Algerians and pledged to continue the dialogue with the opposition by creating a climate of democratic pluralism.

Results From 4 Polling Stations Not Reported

LD1711145095 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1145 GMT 17 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Interior Ministry has said in a statement that the total number of votes cast as announced did not take into account results from four polling stations situated in remote areas. As a result of the long distance, the ministry adds, the results of these four polling stations did not reach the sorting centers in time for the announcement of the results. The results will be proclaimed by the Constitutional Council at a later date in accordance with Article 118 of the electoral law.

Election Procedures, Presidential Powers Noted

LD1711140795 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 17 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Article 118 of the electoral law stipulates that the Constitutional Council will have to proclaim the final results of the presidential elections within 10 days at the latest from the date the council receives the minutes of the provincial electoral commissions provided for in Article 116 of the above law. It is worth noting that Article 116 stipulates that each provincial commission will have to collect the results

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one day after the polling and send them immediately to the Constitutional Council.

The final results of the presidential election will have to be proclaimed officially by the Constitutional Council by 27 December 1995 at the latest [date as heard].

Article 72 of the Constitution stipulates that the president of the republic will be sworn in before the people [as heard] in the presence of representatives of all the supreme state authorities in the week following his election. He will carry out his duties immediately after being sworn in.

Article 74 says that in addition to the powers conferred upon him by other provisions of the Constitution, the president of the republic will be entrusted with the following powers and prerogatives:

1. He is the supreme commander of all the armed forces in the republic;
2. He is in charge of the national defense;
3. He decides the nation's foreign policy and steers it;
4. He chairs the Council of Ministers;
5. He appoints and ends the functions of the prime minister;
6. He signs presidential decrees;
7. He makes civilian and military appointments in the state apparatus;
8. He has the right to issue an amnesty and reduce or commute sentences;
9. He can consult the people on every issue of national importance through a referendum;
10. He appoints and ends the functions of the ambassadors of the republic and the plenipotentiary envoys abroad and receives the letters of credence of foreign diplomatic and the letters on the end of their tour of duty;
11. He signs and ratifies international treaties;
12. He grants state medals, orders, and honorary certificates.

Egypt

Cairo Security Measures Tightened; Saudi Aide Visits

MM2011163695 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 18-19 Nov 95 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Saudi Intelligence Chief in Cairo To 'Reinforce Cooperation'; United States Begins To Reduce Embassy Staff, 'Operations'"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI — Prince Turki al-Faysal, chief of Saudi intelligence, is currently on an important visit to Cairo to hold extensive talks with officials in Egyptian security organs over cooperation to reinforce the protection of Western targets and interests in the Kingdom [of Saudi Arabia], in addition to improving security conditions in Saudi Arabia as a whole.

Prince Turki's visit falls within the framework of a comprehensive revision of the performance of Saudi security organs in order to develop the National Guard in the wake of the explosion that occurred at the U.S. military mission center in Riyadh last Monday.

The visit coincides with the tightening of security measures around Western embassies in Cairo. The number of soldiers guarding the U.S. Embassy in particular has been doubled — which has made it look like a fortified "military garrison," not an embassy.

The Riyadh explosion has created new cause for alarm in the embassy, which has been receiving a flood of threats from the Islamic Group and other fundamentalist movements in Egypt.

Informed sources in the embassy told AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI that a decision has been taken to "reduce its role and the size of its staff," and that the decision has actually begun to be implemented, though only gradually.

The sources attributed this partially to U.S. President Bill Clinton's failure to reach an agreement with Congress to prevent the closure of the federal offices to reduce the budget — which threatens to deprive some 800,000 employees of their jobs.

The sources stressed that it is difficult to reduce the embassy's staff, even though it is one of the largest U.S. missions abroad.

As is known, the U.S. Embassy houses the CIA's regional center in the Middle East.

Wik Roberts [name as transliterated], spokesman for the embassy, said "we are considering suspending any operations considered nonessential," without explaining the nature of these operations.

Musa Reports Arrest of Bombing Suspects

NC2011134895 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 20 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has announced that several people suspected of involvement in the bombing of the Egyptian Embassy in Islamabad have been arrested. According to information received from Pakistan, they include two Egyptians and a Jordanian.

The foreign minister explained that an Egyptian team is in Islamabad, cooperating with the Pakistani authorities and following up the investigation. He voiced the hope

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that the groups behind this ugly crime will soon be exposed.

Musa reported that agreements between Egypt and Pakistan on the extradition of criminals and judicial cooperation are being implemented in view of the criminal terrorist attack on the Egyptian Embassy in Islamabad. The attack left many dead or wounded.

The foreign minister noted that the Pakistani Government is cooperating with Egypt in this regard. He added that the measures that will be adopted will be in line with anything the investigation reveals.

Regarding the payment of compensation to the wounded and the families of the deceased, 'Amr Musa said this issue is being discussed right now.

He remarked: We must compensate our sons for the losses they have suffered.

He explained that President Mubarak gave instructions regarding the issue to the prime minister and the foreign minister. The president, he said, instructed that all the necessary measures be taken to protect the interests of the Egyptian victims and also Egyptian national interests. He asserted that Egypt will do everything necessary to compensate and care for the families of the victims.

Asked about some countries giving asylum and support to terrorist leaders, Musa declared that the practice of giving asylum to terrorists, their leaders, and the mentors who instill faulty ideology in their minds must be terminated.

'Amr Musa revealed that Egypt is conducting intensive international contacts to confront this evil terrorist wave that targets everyone. Describing the terrorist stream as satanic, he pointed out that terrorism has become an international phenomenon that is not linked with any particular society, ideology, or religion.

Stressing that everyone has been damaged by terrorism, he demanded that the phenomenon end.

Pakistani Envoy Pledges To Catch Blast Perpetrators

NC2011135695 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1237 GMT 20 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 20 Nov (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa today met Pakistani Ambassador in Cairo Mansur Alam, who extended his condolences on the criminal attack on the Egyptian Embassy in Islamabad yesterday.

The Pakistani ambassador said his country's authorities are determined to do all they can to arrest and try the perpetrators of this ugly incident. He added that there is full cooperation with the Egyptian team that is now working in Pakistan to identify the perpetrators. He stressed that the Pakistani authorities will tighten security around all the embassies and diplomats in Pakistan, especially the Egyptian diplomatic mission.

The Pakistani ambassador went on to say that his country's government will give full backing to the Egyptian Embassy and ambassador in their current difficult circumstances. He explained that the terrorists in Pakistan are living in the border area with Afghanistan and that it is difficult to reach them in these inaccessible areas. He also noted that the terrorists move between Pakistani and Afghan territory.

He stressed that the Pakistani Government is pursuing them and monitoring their movements to stop their criminal activities, adding that it will step up its efforts in exchanging information with friendly countries to stop these terrorists' activities.

Ambassador Denies Protest Filed With Pakistan

NC2111113495 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1055 GMT 21 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Islamabad, 21 Nov (MENA)—Egyptian Ambassador to Pakistan Dr. Nu'man Jalal denied reports that Egypt protested to Pakistan over a security negligence that led to the bombing of the Egyptian embassy in Islamabad Sunday.

In press statements after seeing off the coffins of the Egyptian martyrs in Islamabad last night, the ambassador said Egypt has nothing to protest to Pakistan.

He stressed that the people and government of Pakistan offered every support for members of the Egyptian embassy after the explosion. He noted that the Pakistani Government hosted the embassy staff following the painful incident.

Suspected Embassy Bombers Condemn 'Pharaohs of Egypt'

NC2111080495 Paris AFP in English 0741 GMT 21 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, Nov 21 (AFP) - An Islamic group which claimed the bombing of Egypt's embassy in Pakistan threatened on Tuesday [21 November] to murder President Husni Mubarak and three senior ministers.

In a two-page typed fax to an international news agency, the International Justice Group (IJG) condemned "the pharaohs of Egypt" — Mubarak, Interior Minister Hasan al-Alfi, Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa, and Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif.

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It said "death sentences have been passed against them, even if they hang from the curtains of the Kaaba," the holy black stone in Mecca, for protection.

Egypt has focused on the IJG as the most likely of three groups which claimed Sunday's suicide bombing of Egypt's embassy in Islamabad, which killed 16 and injured more than 60.

The government has vowed to track down exiled Moslem militants, prompting the group to say it was: "amused by what we heard through the Egyptian press from Egypt's pharaohs following the bombing of the Egyptian embassy."

"We accept the challenge," it said. "Don't worry, we will shorten the way for you. We will ease the burden of traveling for you because you are too cowardly to do it. We will come to you, God willing."

"We will come to relieve you from the world and relieve all mankind from you and your filth, you cowards and traitors," it said.

The al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah and al-Jihad, which have spearheaded militant violence in Egypt, also claimed the attack.

The IJG, suspected to be a branch of the al-Jama'ah, also claimed the murder of an Egyptian diplomat in Geneva last week, after which it vowed to continue its operations.

Paper Details Embassy Blast Investigation Progress

NC2111075295 Cairo MENA in Arabic
0705 GMT 21 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 21 Nov (MENA)—AL-AHRAM reports today [21 November] that investigating authorities in Islamabad have found significant evidence that will reveal the identity of the culprits who carried out the terrorist operation against the Egyptian embassy in Pakistan.

The paper notes that efforts are underway to identify the two terrorists who were killed in the suicide operation. AL-AHRAM adds that the security authorities have succeeded in precisely identifying the perpetrators of the crime. Some of these criminals are inside Pakistan and others are abroad, the paper says.

Continuing, AL-AHRAM points out that Egypt has passed accurate information to the Pakistani authorities over the past few hours to help them unravel the circumstances of the incident. Members of the Egyptian security delegation are closely following up the situation while other groups continue to supply them with fresh information.

Iraq's al-Sahhaf Cables Condolences for Embassy Victims

NC2111122895 Cairo MENA in Arabic
0915 GMT 21 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 21 Nov (MENA)—Iraqi Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf has sent a cable of condolences to Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa for the victims of the attack against the Egyptian embassy in Islamabad Sunday.

In his cable, al-Sahhaf said: We felt sad and anguished for the attack on the embassy of the Arab Republic of Egypt in Islamabad. He express sympathy to the families of the victims.

Mubarak Discusses Peace Process

AU2011122795 Hamburg DER SPIEGEL in German
20 Nov 95 pp 198-199

[Interview with President Muhammad Husni Mubarak by Volkhard Windfuhr in Cairo; date not given: "'The Seed Is Not Sprouting'"]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Windfuhr] Mr. President, the murder of Yitzhaq Rabin has shocked the entire Middle East. Is the peace process threatened?

[Mubarak] The reconciliation must not come to a standstill. The consequences would be bad — as if a heart operation were suddenly interrupted. Rabin's successor, Shim'on Peres, has assured me that he will push the process ahead.

[Windfuhr] Will he be strong enough to keep the promise?

[Mubarak] The attack did not happen out of the blue. When I talked to Rabin during the decisive Palestinian-Israeli negotiations in Cairo last year, I got the feeling that he had to fight peace opponents in his own country, just as Arab peace politicians have had to at home. There will always be people who try to benefit from such situations.

[Windfuhr] The murderer and the suspected wirepullers mainly had the support of radical settlers in the occupied territories. Will peace be possible with these settlers?

[Mubarak] The Jewish settlers have never been prepared to accept the returning of the occupied territories. Maybe the withdrawal of the Israeli troops, which was promised in the agreement, came too quickly. I would have advised the Palestinians to wait a little longer so as not to burden Rabin with the additional problems at that time. But the atmosphere was poisoned already.

[Windfuhr] Will the Israeli Government not have to disarm the Jewish settlers, who are difficult to control?

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[Mubarak] The Israeli authorities will have to think about this. In my opinion, nobody who is not officially entitled to do so should carry arms. The armament of the masses is also a threat to the peace process.

[Windfuhr] The initiator of the reconciliation with Israel, your predecessor, Anwar al-Sadat, was shot dead before your eyes in 1981 — a victim of religious fanatics. Will the peace policy cause even more casualties?

[Mubarak] Al-Sadat's death did not bring the process to a halt. Both sides observed the agreed schedules, and Egypt got the Sinai back. That means that al-Sadat's initiative bore fruit even after his death. Without his initiative, Arabs and Israelis would still be enemies. Al-Sadat pushed the door open. The seed of the opponents to peace will not bear fruit after Rabin's death either.

[Windfuhr] Rabin's death was cheered in Egypt, for instance by the Muslim Brotherhood.

[Mubarak] All terrorist organizations that adorn themselves with the word Islamic go back to the dissolved Muslim Brotherhood. We have clear indications of this. The brothers' freedom of opinion is limited to their own interpretation, which distorts Islam. The Islamic, Jewish, and Christian religions demand peace. Anyone who knowingly misinterprets religion to preach hatred and war distorts the nature of these religions.

[Windfuhr] Religious fanaticism is spreading everywhere, from Algeria to Saudi-Arabia. Can fundamentalism set the Middle East on fire?

[Mubarak] No, the train has departed. The vast majority of people in this part of the world want to live in peace at last. I regret that several European countries are granting political asylum to religious extremists, although they are wirepullers of terrorism. You in Germany also grant asylum to extremists. If the Europeans are not careful, they will have to pay a high price because the violent actions of these people are now also directed against their host countries. I warned the Europeans on time.

[Windfuhr] Successfully?

[Mubarak] Following bloody experiences, France has recognized the extent of the threat and has adopted the right course to stop these people. Armchair culprits are terrorists, too, and must by no means abuse the right to political asylum.

[Windfuhr] A lot has changed since Al-Sadat held his historic speech before the Knesset in November 1977. The Arab front of the irreconcilable opponents of Israel has collapsed. Eight Arab countries were present at Rabin's funeral. Were you gratified to see that?

[Mubarak] Several of my Arab brothers have told me that they regret having lost precious time entering the peace process...

[Windfuhr] ...who?

[Mubarak] I do not want to mention any names. They were all under great pressure, the time was just not right. Al-Sadat had hurried far ahead. Today, we once again realize just how right he was.

[Windfuhr] He was called a traitor for this. Egypt was isolated in the Arab world for a long time. The rejection of the Egyptian-Israeli peace agreement has contributed to blocking the Palestine question.

[Mubarak] The Camp David peace agreement, which we negotiated with Israel in 1978, could have helped the Palestinians a great deal. At that time, there were not so many Jewish settlements, the starting point was much more favorable. But, unfortunately, several Arab countries considered us as "selling out." Yet, Egypt said from the beginning that it will flatly reject the annexation of Arab East Jerusalem, which is against international law.

[Windfuhr] You had never visited Israel before; and now you went to the Israeli capital, Jerusalem.

[Mubarak] Only to attend Rabin's funeral. My visit to Jerusalem does not change a thing in our firm position: The territories that were occupied by Israel in 1967 have to be cleared without any concessions, East Jerusalem is part of the West Bank. The PLO and Israel have agreed to determine the final status of the Holy City in negotiations. The Jerusalem question is still open.

[Windfuhr] Did you decide to fly to Jerusalem only after U.S. President Clinton asked you to do so in a telephone call?

[Mubarak] By no means. Clinton only wanted to know whether I was coming, that was it. I had informed Peres before Clinton called.

[Windfuhr] A comprehensive Middle East peace does not deserve that name unless Syria and Lebanon conclude an agreement with Israel. When will this happen?

[Mubarak] Peres has promised me that he will do everything he can to reach an agreement with Syria. Syria's President Hafiz al-Asad also wants peace. Israel is prepared, in principle, to return the Golan Heights, but Syria does not want to allow any early warning stations manned by Israelis.

[Windfuhr] With fronts hardened like that, the tug-of-war could go on for a long time.

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[Mubarak] I have told the Israelis: Do not insist on such demands. Modern technology offers sufficient possibilities to avoid these problems.

[Windfuhr] You seem optimistic, Israel has complained about the "cold peace" with Cairo. The Israelis meanwhile consider relations with Jordan to be warmer.

[Mubarak] Every country has its own way of acting. We prefer to let things go their natural way instead of speeding forward. We cooperate with Israel in agricultural and industrial projects, which is certainly not a sign of cold relations. I agree with leaders in almost all the countries of the region that terrorism and war do not solve one single problem. Once the entire Middle East is pacified, a common economic planning scheme could improve the standard of living of all the nations in this region. Given some good will, we could reach this goal within a year.

[Windfuhr] Mr. President, thank you for the interview.

Minister Urges World Cooperation To Fight 'Terrorism'

NC1911133795 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1248 GMT 19 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 19 Nov (MENA)—Interior Minister Hasan al-Alfi has condemned the evil, criminal attack on the Egyptian Embassy in Pakistan today. He declared that it is time to fight terrorism in an open and clear way. He said every country in the world must make public the security information it obtains because terrorism has become a danger that threatens the international community's destiny.

In a statement after today's bombing, the interior minister said that recent incidents have revealed that all the terrorist groups spring from the same source and their objective is to attack all Arab and Islamic countries. He explained that the pressure brought by the Egyptian security agencies against terrorists operating inside Egypt and the security forces' successes in thwarting these terrorists' schemes drove them to attack Egyptian interests abroad.

Hasan al-Alfi added that, following the recent spate of bombings, all the Arab countries and other countries in the world are now convinced that all terrorist crimes rely on international financing and receive foreign instructions issued at meetings held abroad. He said this makes it necessary for various countries to unite and coordinate efforts to destroy the terrorist phenomenon and expose the criminal schemes to the whole world.

Al-Alfi added that terrorist activity has spread to the entire world and under these circumstances it is not permissible for the concerned countries to remain silent, but they must cooperate and exchange security information. He pointed out that such cooperation is essential particularly as every country will be threatened unless it cooperates and coordinates with others.

The Egyptian interior minister called for swift and urgent efforts to persuade the concerned regional and international security organizations to cooperate with each other. He declared that the Arab countries believe it is not possible to end terrorism without cooperation among all such organizations.

Commentary Promises To Eliminate 'Terrorists'

NC1911154795 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1240 GMT 19 Nov 95

[Commentary by Zayn al-Ja'fari: "Egypt Is Determined To Purge God's Land of God's Enemies"]

[[FBIS Translated Text] The Egyptian Embassy in the Pakistani capital Islamabad was subjected to a serious criminal attack this morning. Al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah [the Islamic Group] has claimed responsibility for the attack which blew up the embassy building. According to the Foreign Ministry, 15 people are dead and more than 59 others wounded.

According to reports following the painful incident, the Egyptian Embassy underwent two consecutive explosions from a booby-trapped car parked in front of the building causing extensive damage to the embassy compound and nearby buildings.

This is the ugly, painful, and inhuman image of terrorist groups. It also shows evidence of the strength of President Mubarak's reiterated call to confront terrorism since it has become a world-wide phenomenon that is no longer exclusive to one particular country. Even the major powers, led by the United States, Britain, and France, are subjected and continue to be subjected to terrorist groups. These groups hide behind religion and seek in vain to find excuses for their criminal acts against innocent people, whether in Islamabad, New York, Paris, London, or elsewhere. The latest of these acts occurred in Algeria. Scores of innocent people were killed by terrorist groups.

It is obvious that Egypt has thoroughly succeeded in uprooting terrorism in Egypt. Cooperation between the people and the security forces have struck with an iron fist against anyone contemplating a criminal terrorist act against the Egyptian people.

After the noose was tightened around them, these groups sought refuge abroad in countries that protect and sponsor terrorism. In these countries, the terrorists resumed their criminal acts.

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The criminal attack on the Egyptian Embassy in Islamabad, which killed a number of innocent people, is an indication that terrorism has become a world—wide phenomenon. It also indicates that the international community is bound to cooperate closely and effectively to eradicate this phenomenon which now threatens international security and stability. Egypt extends its hand to various countries to help eradicate terrorism after it has uprooted it from its land.

Everyone is aware that the terrorist groups hide behind religion. When the Islamic Group claimed responsibility for the attack, it should condemn itself because the Islamic religion does not sanction killing under any circumstances. Then how are these killing and terrorizing groups finding any justification to hide behind? The circumstance does not allow us to go into detail. However, what these groups want is far removed from religion. They seek power and to do that they kill and carry out terrorism or inhumane acts. To achieve that goal, they obtained finances from states and groups whose sole aim is to undermine Egypt's security and stall Egypt's current progress and development, especially since the economic reform experiment has been a model and an example for all others to follow.

These terrorist attempts are evident by the attack on tourism in Egypt in order to harm Egypt's national economy. Tourism is the states's third resource of hard currency.

Concluding, if terrorism has succeeded in a treacherous attack on the Egyptian Embassy in Islamabad, it does not mean that terrorism has achieved its goals. Terrorists seem to have forgotten that Egypt is waiting for them and will chase them until it purges God's land of God's enemies.

Commentary Urges Global Effort Against 'Terrorism'

NC2011170395 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1240 GMT 20 Nov 95

[Commentary by Ahmad al-Qasir: "How Long Will the World Keep Silent About the Phenomenon of International Terrorism?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The bats of terrorism have again emerged from their dens abroad. All segments of the Egyptian nation, of various political and ideological affiliations, have rejected them and purged their sacred national territory of the profane presence of those agents. The civilized, Arab, Muslim, Egyptian public stood by the side of the security forces in a heroic saga, to which the whole world bears testimony, to confront this criminal phenomenon which is so alien to our religion, values, and Arabhood. The people resisted it with total courage, put an end to its practices, exposed the fact that it is an agency of foreign parties, laid bare its criminal objectives, and demonstrated the falsehood of all the slogans the terrorists try to hide behind.

We say it again: These bats—the remnants of the terrorist, criminal, hireling gangs, so alien to the Egyptian people and the Arab and Islamic nation—have emerged again in a desperate, insane foray to vent their wrath and deeprooted, black hatred against the Egyptian people in an unprecedentedly barbaric fashion. If this proves anything, it is these criminals' vileness and the fact that they are professional murderers and blood shedders blinded by the lust for domination and the desire to seize power by any method, even if it means killing innocent people of whatever age and station. Their objective is to intimidate, terrorize, and dictate to others, by force of arms and through treachery, their insanely extremist ideas.

Is there anything strange about this criminal conduct? Didn't these butchers, in the name of Islam, which disavows all their actions, kill the child Shayma' [schoolgirl killed during attempt on Egyptian prime minister's life], shoot schoolchildren, old men, women, and foreign tourists who are the guests of Egypt?

It is a great tragedy that this time they chose a target outside Egypt, the Egyptian Embassy in Islamabad. They launched a hideous assault on it in which several sons of Egypt employed by the embassy were martyred. They also killed or wounded dozens of Pakistani nationals.

All segments of the Egyptian population were swift to condemn this hideous crime and demand retribution against those murderers, agents, hirelings, and enemies of their homeland, religion, and nation.

The denunciation did not stop here. The kings and presidents of Arab, Islamic, and foreign countries hastened to telephone President Mubarak to condemn this criminal, terrorist, barbarous act and extend their condolences on the death of the Egyptian martyrs, the diplomats and other employees at the Egyptian Embassy in Pakistan.

The fact that the remnants of the hireling terrorist gangs, which work for regimes well-known as terrorist sponsors to the Arabs and the whole world, chose the Egyptian Embassy in Islamabad as the target of their brutal assault demonstrates these criminal gangs' bankruptcy and inability to penetrate Egyptian domestic security and carry out sabotage on Egyptian territory. Their leaders and the regimes that supply them with funds, weapons, bombs, explosives, and sophisticated communications equipment were driven to a state of frenzy when the large quantities of weapons they had tried to smuggle across the Sudanese border were seized, their agents were arrested by the police, and afterward

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the criminals and their backers failed to deceive the university students and incite them to carry out sabotage.

Driven to a frenzy, they carried out this cowardly act against the Egyptian Embassy in Islamabad in an attempt to demonstrate their presence and intimidate the Egyptian people by claiming that they can harm their interests abroad. This, however, is too difficult for them to accomplish. The sons of Egypt have declared that they will always be alert to these criminals and that these reprehensible actions will not hinder the process of peace, progress, and reconstruction that Egypt has embarked upon in the past few years.

The Egyptian Embassy incident was not directed against the Egyptian people alone but was also an act of aggression against the fraternal Pakistani people to intimidate them, particularly as Pakistan recently started to confront the remnants of these gangs, pursue them on its territory, and extradite the criminals to their countries of origin to stand trial.

Furthermore, this gruesome crime is also directed against the Arabs, the Muslims, and the entire world community. It shows that terrorism has become an international phenomenon. Everyone must shoulder the responsibility of confronting it before it spreads uncontrollably everywhere. It is this call that President Mubarak has frequently made at international forums. More than once he issued warnings to the countries that give asylum to terrorists under the claim of human rights.

The Islamabad incident cannot be separated from the Riyadh bombing that occurred a few days before nor from other terrorist actions in many other capitals.

When will the world community act to confront this international criminal phenomenon?

Egypt will always remain a land of peace and security. Those who try to harm it at home or abroad will not escape their just punishment.

Libya

Interior Minister on Egypt, Sudan, Embargo

MM2011140395 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 19 Nov 95 p 16

[Interview with Muhammad al-Hijazi, secretary of the General People's Committee for Interior and Justice, by Sawsan Abu-Husayn in Cairo; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Abu-Husayn] What are the most important results of your meeting with Egyptian Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi during your visit to Egypt?

[Al-Hijazi] The meeting was held in the context of bolstering cooperation and the special relations between the two countries and the importance of developing these relations in the coming period, particularly after the meeting of a number of subcommittees of the Egyptian-Libyan Higher Joint Committee. Because of the Egyptian elections, it was agreed that the committee will meet early January to make a number of decisions to reactivate trade and investment and open the way for Egyptian labor in all fields of work in Libya.

[Abu-Husayn] But although both the Libyan and Egyptian sides are talking about the special nature of their ties, there are still some concealed differences.

[Al-Hijazi] I take full responsibility for everything I say about Egyptian-Libyan relations in particular. All the claims of differences or a concealed crisis are untrue. What I see, as a responsible official, is a confirmation of the special nature of these relations. The Egyptian position from President Mubarak down to the ministers as well as the position of the Arab League headed by Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid are positions of support for Libya. They are all making continuous and relentless efforts in search of a way to resolve the Lockerbie crisis by peaceful means and through constructive dialogue. The Libyan people and their leadership appreciate President Mubarak's sincere efforts. That is a fact and we are not just saying it out of courtesy. So there are no hidden differences. On the contrary, relations are even more special. I say that from experience and on the basis of awareness of existing realities.

[Abu-Husayn] It has recently been claimed that Libya intends to deport 1 million Egyptian workers because of the lack of legitimate work contracts. The number of Egyptian workers in Libya is known to be 1.5 million of whom only about 30,000 have legitimate contracts. How will you address that situation?

[Al-Hijazi] Egyptian labor, and I take full responsibility for what I say here, is not considered to be a part of foreign labor. That is because of the special relations and the 10 agreements concluded between the two countries providing for free movement, transport, work, and investment for the nationals of both countries regardless of work contracts. We know the Egyptians well. They are part of us and closer to us than other workers. Therefore, if a small number went to Libya to work but found no work opportunities they would spontaneously return of their own free will. We do not put any pressure on anyone.

[Abu-Husayn] That leaves the problems of transfer [of money], seen by some as an obstacle facing workers in Libya.

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[Al-Hijazi] That is linked to certain laws and legislation. Anyone with a work contract is subject to the transfer terms. In the contract it is agreed that a part of his salary, agreed by the contractor from the outset, can be transferred. As regards the Egyptian brothers who are treated as Libyans, namely the group which has no work contracts, they work in the market on their own and they solve their problems like any Libyan would, without any objection from us.

[Abu-Husayn] Sudan has again asked the United Nations to transport its nationals out of Libya. Its first request was rejected. Is Libya awaiting such a step to move them out?

[Al-Hijazi] That is a Sudanese affair and we have nothing to do with it.

[Abu-Husayn] What about the Sudanese nationals waiting on the borders, whom Sudan refuses to receive?

[Al-Hijazi] My information is that all the Sudanese nationals who were waiting on the borders have indeed been received by Sudan. The Nigerian and Mali nationals have also returned, but if there are others we intend to deport then we would do that in the same way as before on the borders.

[Abu-Husayn] What is the state of Libyan-Sudanese relations in the wake of Libya's discharge of Sudanese workers?

[Al-Hijazi] Our relations with Sudan are good. The proof is that Libyan Unity Minister Jum'ah al-Fazzani returned from Khartoum recently after a four-day visit to Sudan.

[Abu-Husayn] It has been claimed that the Sudanese are inciting riots and threatening security in Libya.

[Al-Hijazi] Any group that incites riots, be it Sudanese or otherwise, will be punished. The matter is handled according to the law.

[Abu-Husayn] Is there anything new regarding the search for a solution to the Lockerbie crisis?

[Al-Hijazi] Libya has proposed possible solutions with flexibility and is trying to find a solution that would end that crisis. At present it is leaving it to specialists in that field, to study all proposals and reach findings with which we could begin.

[Abu-Husayn] Are you referring to the start of Libya's dialogue with France and Britain, in the assumption that the dialogue with the Americans would come later?

[Al-Hijazi] That comes under the jurisdiction of the foreign ministry.

[Abu-Husayn] But despite all the efforts to resolve the crisis between Libya and the West, the U.S. position remains the same, namely insistence on extradition of the suspects. Why?

[Al-Hijazi] The embargo imposed on Libya was a political, not a legal step, just like all the measures taken by the United States at the Security Council, to make Libya pay for its national and pan- Arab stands on a number of fateful issues. Had the matter been a legal one in the context of the question of extraditing the suspects, Libya would have been accorded the right to bring the suspects to trial if they were proven guilty under the law and in accordance with the Montreal agreement and international law.

[Abu-Husayn] So will the crisis remain unresolved?

[Al-Hijazi] Egypt is making great efforts in that respect.

[Abu-Husayn] But there have been no results so far.

[Al-Hijazi] We do not expect immediate results that would resolve the crisis. Let that come at the appropriate time. The Libyan people have been standing fast for four years and are ready to stand fast for another 100 years.

[Abu-Husayn] Do you expect solutions to the Lockerbie crisis, leading to an early lifting of the air blockade?

[Al-Hijazi] The air blockade is a big problem. We hope it will be lifted because of the loss of lives that occurs as a result of land and sea transport and because of the losses in the commercial sector. We hope that will be considered in the near future.

[Abu-Husayn] Is the air blockade imposed on Libya impeding a meeting between President Mubarak and Colonel al-Qadhdhafi?

[Al-Hijazi] Fraternal ties between the two countries' leadership do not necessarily come from intensive meetings. Meetings are taking place at official levels between the two countries. Within a period of 10 days four ministers have visited Egypt with large delegations to reach agreement and coordinate with Egypt on various issues of common interest. There was also telephone contact between President Mubarak and Col. al-Qadhdhafi some days ago.

[Abu-Husayn] But the results of that contact were not made public.

[Al-Hijazi] It is not essential that we should announce the results in all circumstances. The two countries cannot do without one another.

[Abu-Husayn] Regarding your participation in the meeting of the Arab justice ministers, did the meeting fail

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to pass any resolutions on the question of confronting extremism, as has been claimed?

[Al-Hijazi] That is not true. The Arab justice ministers did not fail on that sensitive issue which is of interest to the entire Arab region. There is full agreement to fight and contain terrorism, particularly as that subject was originally raised at the Islamic summit conference held in Casablanca and all the Islamic heads of states and their ministerial representatives agreed to prepare a document on combating terrorism. That was referred to the Arab interior ministers and a committee was formed to prepare the necessary items. The same subject was taken up by the Arab justice ministers on the basis of the Casablanca document and it was agreed to hold a meeting in the context of the justice and interior affairs council to approve the final agreement, which will be signed and lodged with the Arab League to be implemented. Terrorism has become an international phenomenon and it must be contained. There must be collective cooperation to contain it.

[Abu-Husayn] In your capacity as justice minister, what is your position on the Arab court of justice question and is there a need for an Arab summit conference to approve it and complete Arab reconciliation?

[Al-Hijazi] As known, Libya was the first to advocate the Arab court of justice system but the necessary research and studies require some time, particularly as the court legislation would apply to the entire Arab region and so would its provisions, rules, and bylaws.

We do not want the Arab court of justice to be involved in political issues and Arab differences. The court would consider a dispute if a state submitted a complaint relating to borders or other issues. We, therefore, would not involve the court itself in the question of restoring relations between states in dispute. Issues of Arab reconciliation would not be a part of its jurisdiction. It would consider legal disputes using the knowledge of a group of judges on the basis of evidence in support of rights, and its verdict would be binding on the parties in dispute.

Meeting Held With Egyptian Envoy for Cooperation

LD1911151795 Tripoli JANA in English 1420 GMT 19 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tripoli, Al Harth 19, JAMAHIRYA NEWS AGENCY — Libyan-Egyptian Arab meeting for the consolidation of cooperation relations between the two sisterly countries was held last night in implementation of the minutes of the of the meetings of the 4th session of the Libyan-Egyptian Arab joint higher committee held in Cairo during last year.

The meetings were attended by the assistant secretary general for international cooperation affairs to the General People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation and Saad Mohamed Bayoumi, the first deputy of the Ministry of International cooperation in the Arab Republic of Egypt.

The secretary general for international cooperation affairs made a speech greetings brother members of the committee and expressing the hope that the results of the work of the committee will help increasing and consolidating cooperation and complementarity between the two sisterly countries and giving impetus to further steps along the path of total Arab unity.

He stressed the importance of the meetings of this committee in consolidating relatqons of cooperation between the Arab people of the great Jamahirya and the Arab Republic of Egypt, laying down firm foundations, exerting further efforts and creating wider scopes for cooperation in a manner which may serve the aspirations of our Arab people and nation.

On his part, Saad Mohamed Bayoumi stressed the deeply rooted relations of cooperation between the Libyan and Egyptian Arab people, the importance of action to increase the enhancement of joint cooperation in all economic and political fields which may contribute towards adding further strength to the edifice of relations between the two sisterly countries including complementarity and bonds along the path of realising total Arab unity from the ocean to the Gulf.

Several working committees were set up consisting of experts from the two sides to discuss issues of cooperation between the two countries in implementation of the meetings of the 4th session for the establishment of this committee which consists of delegate members from the interested organs in the two countries.

Tripoli Concerned Over Sudan, Yemen, Eritrea

LD1711140495 Tripoli Great Jamahiriyah Radio Network in Arabic 1330 GMT 17 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] An official source at the Secretariat of the General People's Congress has expressed Libya's concern over developments taking place between brotherly Sudan and its sisterly and friendly neighbors, as well as the serious developments between Yemen and Eritrea.

The source pointed out that the Secretariat of the General People's Congress was waiting for the return of the secretary for the General People's Committee for

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Unity from his mission in Sudan to find out about these serious events.

Al-Qadhdhafi Addresses Popular Leaderships

LD2011143195 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 2027 GMT 19 Nov 95

[Address by leader Muammar al-Qadhdhafi to "coordinators of popular leaderships;" place and date not given — live or recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] We begin this meeting which brings you all together for the first time. We take notice of the points we mention. We want to understand the philosophy of the popular leaderships. I have stressed my opinion many times in my meetings with the popular leaderships. Popular leaderships in each region have a great task. They must understand its importance. [passage omitted]

The masses have created the popular leaderships, thus completing the construction. I do not need, practically, anything except the people's congresses and committees, the popular leaderships and the instigator: The revolutionary power. [passage omitted]

If people leave their fate to a ruler who will remain their king for life, such as in Jordan and other countries, and then appears in the form you have seen, this is gambling with the fate of the nation and the people. In such a case, who would have confidence in that method of rule? There was a loss when Jamal 'Abd al-Nasir died, but we were sold out when As-Sadat came on the scene. [passage omitted] How can we avoid getting another As-Sadat, another King Husayn, or 'Arafat? With the traditional method of ruling, the door is open to such kinds of rulers to farces, calamities, and losses, the price of which is paid by the people and the nation. [passage omitted] This is a gamble we should not take. No Arab citizen should therefore be at ease with himself if he lives in a political system which might allow the emergence of a ruler similar to today's rulers in a number of Arab countries, who yesterday shamelessly and publicly cried over the death of Rabin. They shed tears like women. Even Rabin's wife did not cry as much as the Arab rulers who went to Jerusalem. By doing so, in Jerusalem, they confirmed that the latter is the capital of Israel. We should learn our lesson from such an ugly scene.

Also, as soon as a colonial American base in a holy land was destroyed, they rushed to cry over the incident and to send their condolences, exactly as they did in Jerusalem.

This nation of Arabs has lost its dignity and has no future. It will have no future because it will be divided between Western Europe, a Middle Eastern bloc, and America. They are taking North Africa to Barcelona, the Arab East will be under the Middle Eastern bloc, and America will take control over the Gulf.

America has already taken control over the Gulf. American military occupation is already a reality. America has formed a 5th Fleet in the Red Sea, which is in the heart of the Arab homeland; all countries on its rims are Arab. There are foreign military bases in the Arab Peninsula and in the Gulf. [passage omitted]

The explosion in Riyadh revealed the truth. We have never thought of a foreign presence, even civilian presence, in Riyadh, because this is forbidden. Even the embassies are in Jeddah, the embassies of foreign countries are in Jeddah. We have never known that there was a strong American military base inside Riyadh until it was revealed by the explosion.

This does not mean that we are attacking our brothers in Saudi Arabia. No, they are probably afraid of Iraq, Iran, or Yemen — which is another country, for example. They seek protection from a foreign military force. [passage omitted] The Arab World is occupied; even Saudi Arabia is afraid of Iraq, or Iran, and it brings in American forces. It has lost its independence. It might have been compelled to do this, but this compulsion has made it lose its independence.

Tunisia might be nationalistic, Pan-Arab, and revolutionary, but if it economically needed American money, it would in consequence succumb to American policy. Therefore, it would lose its independence by doing this. [passage omitted] We say about Libya the same thing we are saying about these countries. We say that Libya has lost its independence on account of this need. The outcome is that the Arab World, from the [Atlantic] Ocean to the [Arabian] Gulf is currently occupied, and not independent. It needs a long struggle to liberate it. The Arab nation must enter a battle, the battle of liberation, the liberation of territory and honor.

The rulers are those who surrendered the Arab countries to the enemy on a silver platter. Consequently, we do not trust any ruler, and we do not trust any person who claims to be a prophet, or the imamate, or the like. We are not concerned with his origin, descent, or lineage. These things belong to him and are not of concern to the masses. [passage omitted]

As-Sadat said I had to sign a peace treaty because I was defeated. The Egyptian people did not, however, fight his battle; it was fought by the Egyptian Army. Therefore, one should not say that the Egyptian people were defeated. The same thing took place in Iraq. The Iraqi people did not fight the battle for Kuwait. The Iraqi

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people were innocent spectators. Had the Iraqi people fought the battle for Kuwait, they would have won. Iraq would have stayed in Kuwait. The problem was only that the Iraqi Army fought it. [passage omitted]

Today, the Palestinian people are banned from entering Palestine. One should not say that the Palestinian people cannot liberate Palestine. How can it do so when they are banned by Arabs from entering Palestinian land. When we allowed a section of the Palestinian people to go back to their land, people raised hell. They did so for the benefit of the enemy; they were supporting the Zionist-imperialist plan aimed at preventing the Palestinian people from returning to their land.

The Popular Leaderships in Libya is therefore an historical solution. I want you to understand the philosophy behind it. [passage omitted] I want to demonstrate to the peoples of the Arab nation that the Libyan people, thanks to its revolution, have managed to escape the farce a having a ruler and/or a president and the farce of having a government.

Can anyone tell me when Arab peoples decided to recognize Israel, and which Arab people did so? No people can make such a decision, simply because no Arab people have the right to recognize the so-called Israel; only the Palestinian people. But the Palestinian people are not together in one place. The Palestinian people live in diaspora and are not allowed to speak out or to make any moves. The Palestinian people are mere beggars fighting for their survival in other Arab countries, and elsewhere.

The Libyan Arab people, by revolutionary means, will incite other Arab peoples, and peoples throughout the world, to end this farce. The farce of being governed by a ruler. We must never allow this farce to happen to us. If someone tries to rule us, we must take to the streets and cut him into pieces. No one should pretend to know more than we do — we, the Libyan people, who are organized in people's congresses, in people's committee and in revolutionary committees: A system which has now been crowned by the emergence of the social popular leaderships. Reliance on one man who claims to be able to plan, lead, and work is the reason for the current humiliation of the Arab nation. How can a Muslim take part in the funeral of a Jew? Religiously it is not permitted. It is forbidden for a Muslim to do so. Anyone who took part in Rabin's funeral is no longer a Muslim.

How can they pay homage to him? How can a Muslim pay homage to the corpse of a slain Jew? How can he do that? In doing so, what was he reading? Was it from the Koran, from the Torah, or what? They are no longer Muslims. [passage omitted] Of all Arab countries, only Libya did not take part in this funeral. Also, I think Sudan did not take part; the rest did. They all sent official delegations. How can anyone allow himself to be ruled by someone like 'Arafat or Husayn? How can any nation allow itself to be ruled by a king, a sultan, a ruler, or even a minister? Were the peoples of the Gulf consulted when they were represented by the Omani delegation? Were the peoples of the region asked first? How could the Omani delegation express, in the name of the Gulf people, solidarity with the Israeli people? Since when did Arabs of the Gulf, and even of Oman itself, feel any solidarity with the enemy or with the Israeli people? Recognition of the Israeli people is a blow to the Palestinian people. Two peoples cannot coexist in one land. Once you recognize Israel, you kill off the Palestinian people; you wipe it off the map.

How can anyone still believe in elections and in electing a president? Yesterday, we congratulated our brother Liamine Zeroual on his victory. However, this is being challenged. They said that 15 million Algerians were eligible to vote. Four million refused to vote, and 11 million participated in balloting, out of whom 4 million did not vote for brother Liamine Zeroual. Seven million voted for him and the other 4 million voted for others. [passage omitted] On the basis of the prevailing trend in the world, that is regarded as conventional democracy — whoever gets 51 percent of the votes is able to strike out the other 49 percent. These are elections; even the man who won is being challenged on the basis of his gaining 7 out of 15 million votes.

There have been accusations; for example, [Hamas leader Noureddine] Nahnah has claimed that there was rigging at the ballot box, although international observers were present. Thus, the elections were described as a sham. [passage omitted]

We have resources under our disposal, under our free disposal; they are not restricted by anyone. Therefore, we have to build our country rapidly, lead it out of backwardness and make into an advanced country, and stir up the masses and carry them along with us.

This a serious issue; it is not an option. It is a serious issue, as I said. We can hear the sounds of 800 British, American, and French planes (?close to) our border; it is incredible. Our Arab homeland has been occupied militarily. [passage omitted]

You must not leave experts alone because they can do nothing by themselves. They have to be under your supervision and control. Experts are very important. Practical solutions to all the problems lie with the experts, and you have enough experts in all your areas. [passage omitted]

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How can we challenge the Arab countries which installed rulers, who sold them out? We need to display to them direct people's democracy.

God willing, you will be successful.

Opposition Group Condemns 'Coordination Committee'

MM1711164195 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 17 Nov 95 p 6

[Unattributed report: "Libyan Democratic National Grouping Says Continuation of Coordination Committee Is Political Piracy"]

[FBIS Translated Text] London, AL-HAYAH — The Libyan Democratic National Grouping [LDNG] has stressed that the continuation of the Coordination Committee of the Libyan National and Democratic Forces [CCLNDF] (led by Captain 'Abd-al-Mun'im al-Huni) is "an act of political piracy, unworthy of democrats and nationalists."

The LNDG had previously issued a statement in which it said that the continuation of the CCLNDF, formed in Geneva three years ago and which it helped to create, is no longer legitimate. 'Izz-al-Din al-Ghadamisi, CCLNDF spokesman, responded by saying that an open request for the CCLNDF to freeze its activity "only serves the ruling regime in Libya."

The LNDG responded yesterday to al-Ghadamisi in a statement which said: "The big question mark is about who has attempted and still is using the name of a committee which no longer enjoys legitimacy, by virtue of the conditions of its creation." The statement added: "The continuation of the CCLNDF is a violation of the charters and agreements according to which it was formed and an act of political piracy unworthy of nationalists and democrats.... The second congress of the Libyan National Democratic Forces alone can decide the future of this grouping and, hence, whether to continue with its coordination committee, reform it, or dissolve it. Until then the LNDG will remain true to its commitments to its brother members of this grouping and will work assiduously to respect what has been agreed."

The statement called for "refraining from carrying out individual, paralyzing activities so that our objectives and declared slogans can gain credibility with the citizen.... For opposition groups and political coalitions to behave in an individualistic way does not move our cause forward, but instead concentrates the opposition movement, in all its forms, in the hands of individuals who manipulate it according to their own will and wishes, which may not conform to the partners' vision and may not be nationalist."

Morocco

Ambassador: West Supports UN Plan for Sahara

LD1711141795 Rabat MAP in English 1300 GMT 17 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Rabat, Nov. 17 (MAP) — Moroccan roving Ambassador Brahim Hakim, who recently toured many Western countries, stressed that the countries he visited are attached to the implementation of the UN peace plan for the Sahara.

The roving ambassador, who was speaking at a press conference Thursday in Rabat, underlined that in view of the obstacle [word indistinct] by the Polisario [Popular Front for the Liberation of Saquia El Hamra and Rio de Oro], the UNO [United Nations] has now two options: either endeavor for the implementation of the peace plan and see to the respect of the five identification criteria set in the plan, or become "the hostage of the veto of the Polisario gang".

The diplomat said all the countries he visited in America and Europe are firmly attached to the implementation of the UN peace plan and stressed that these positions are in tune with the standpoint of Morocco, as expressed by King Hassan II in the speech he delivered November 6.

The sovereign had warned in this speech that if the UN settlement plan for the Sahara is not scrupulously respected, the referendum will never take place in the territory.

Brahim Hakim recalled that his tour to America and Europe was meant to shed light on Morocco's position for the implementation of the UN settlement plan, which was accepted by the two parties after difficult talks conducted since 1988.

The Polisario which accepted the plan in the beginning has now a sole objective, the obstruction of the referendum process, supervised by the United Nations, Hakim said, explaining that this new position stems from the separatists' confidence that the referendum will confirm the Sahara as Moroccan territory.

Speaking of the new criteria proposed for the identification of eligible voters in the projected referendum, Brahim Hakim underlined that it is impossible to require a written document in this regard in view of the nomadic character of the Saharan population, which has an oral tradition and a life style different from that of sedentary societies.

The roving ambassador stressed that even the Polisario leader Mohamed Abdelaziz cannot furnish such written

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document for identification in the referendum process. The identification of the separatists' leader, who was born in Marrakech, was itself based on the criteria of reference to the tribe of origin and on testimony of Sahrawi Shiouks.

Hakim, who warned that any deviation of the UN peace plan for the Sahara can be dangerous, voiced optimism as to the future of the settlement process, after the renewal of the mandate of the UN Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO).

Brahim Hakim had visited the United States, where he conferred with officials from the U.S State Department in Washington and with representatives of countries in the UN Security Council as well as representatives of Non-Aligned Movement states in the council.

Hakim then flew to Europe, where he visited the Strasbourg-based European Parliament, Belgium, France, Britain, Italy and Germany.

Polisario Official Views Delay in POW Release

LD2111003095 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 20 Nov 95

[Italicized passages are recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] A Moroccan official, who refused to reveal his name, confirmed today in Rabat that the 186 Moroccan POWs released last Friday by the Popular Front for the Liberation of Saquia El Hamra and Rio de Oro [Polisario] arrived yesterday at the military base Ben Qarir, north of Marrakech.

The Saharan ambassador to Algeria affirmed to our radio that this initiative was proof of the efforts of the Saharan side to promote the peace plan in the western Sahara.

The Saharan ambassador explains the reasons behind the delay in these POWs'release.

[Ambassador] *The delay in releasing those Moroccan POWs is a question you can ask the Moroccan government because it is they who have refused to receive them since 1989. You can ask them why they refused from 1989 until yesterday. We, at any rate, do not know why the Government of Morocco and the king of Morocco refused for more than six years the return of a group of the sons of Morocco to their country and to see their families until the day before yesterday.*

[Announcer] Regarding this initiative and if it is to be followed by similar measures, the Saharan ambassador replied:

[Ambassador] *There is the UN peace plan. In one of the stages of the implementation of this UN plan, I said that in one of its stages there is the second stage, I think, after the self-determination stage. The second stage of the plan talks about the exchange of POWs and political prisoners by the Moroccans [as heard]. But this exchange cannot happen now due to the state which the peace plan is in and the obstacles. We have been in the first stage for some years now.*

EU Official: Accord 'Model' for Mediterranean

LD1811144795 Rabat MAP in English 1330 GMT 18 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Rabat, Nov 18 (MAP) — Juan Prat, who is in charge of Mediterranean policy at the European Commission, said Friday [17 November] the Morocco-European Union Accord should serve as a model for other Mediterranean countries.

The European official, who was interviewed by the Moroccan private radio station "Medi-1" (based in Tangier), termed the accord as 'complex, complete, important and deep'.

Juan Prat, who said he cannot imagine the Barcelona Conference without Morocco, underlined that the conclusion of the accord will contribute to the success of the Euro-Mediterranean conference.

The accord will pave the way for a genuine partnership between Morocco and the union, he underlined.

The Morocco-EU Association Accord was initialled Thursday at the Brussels-based European Commission by Moroccan Ambassador to the Union Mohamed Iguedira and Juan Prat.

MAP, German News Agencies To Cooperate

LD1811132595 Rabat MAP in English 1314 GMT 18 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Rabat, Nov 18 (MAP) — The Moroccan and German news agencies 'MAP' and 'DPA' signed here Friday [17 November] a cooperation accord providing for the exchange of information and the marketing in Morocco, by MAP, of the DPA Arabic service.

The accord also provides for the exchange of photos and data and the organizing of training sessions to the benefit of MAP journalists, technicians and computer engineers.

Under the accord, MAP and DPA pledge to grant facilities and assistance to each other's correspondents and special envoys.

The accord was initialed by MAP Director General, Abdeljalil Fenjiro, and DPA Commercial Director for the Middle East and Africa, Bassam Aouda.

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King Sends Message to UNESCO Director General

LD1711133595 Rabat MAP in English 1219 GMT 17 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Paris, Nov. 17 (MAP) — King Hassan II renewed Morocco's attachment to the ideals of peace and culture for all, upheld by the UNESCO.

This came in a message the sovereign sent to UNESCO director general, Federico Mayor, on the occasion of the organization's 50th birthday, celebrated Thursday in Paris.

The message was handed to Mayor by Moroccan minister of higher education, Driss Khalil.

The UNESCO chief voiced, on the occasion, thanks to King Hassan II for Morocco's continuous support to UNESCO.

The Moroccan minister had made a speech on the occasion of the organization's 50th birthday on behalf of regional groups. He recalled the noble objectives of the organization meant to be an efficient tool for struggle against wars through education, science and culture.

Driss Khalil urged all UNESCO member states to consolidate cooperation and dialogue to improve the action of the UNESCO and to enable it reach its noble goals.

The commemoration of the UNESCO anniversary was attended by many heads of state including Presidents Yasir 'Arafat of Palestine, Husni Mubarak of Egypt and Mobutu Sese Seko of Zaire.

Sudan

Al-Bashir Addresses Transitional National Assembly

EA2111120095 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 20 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, the president of the Republic, has said that the country's external policy is based on clear vision and is centered on the principles of good neighborliness, respect for other nations' sovereignty, and applying the principle of refusing to be subjected to force or inflicting it on others. He said: In our foreign policy, we are committed to a comprehensive national strategy which makes Sudan an example worthy of emulation.

His Excellency made these comments in a speech to the Sudanese nation this morning via the plenary sitting of the fifth session of the Transitional National Assembly [TNA].

Lt. Gen. 'Umar al-Bashir said Sudan has worked for strengthening Arab relations as it has established contacts with the Gulf Cooperation Council's members, and numerous African states. This year, agreements on technical and economic cooperation with East European states, Asia, and the EU were signed. Diplomacy succeeded in making Sudan a member of the World Trade Organization as well as other international and regional organizations.

Sudan also regained its membership in UN committees while continuing efforts to counter campaigns against it. His Excellency said: We are a transparent and accountable state, and shall not abandon this position. Lt. Gen. 'Umar al-Bashir added that Sudan derives from its identity and history the real meaning of independence.

He confirmed that the National Salvation Revolution has broken the back of the rebellion by the sacred blood of the martyrs and the homeland's loyal sons, and this with a great pride that cannot be expressed in words.

His Excellency also dealt with the progress of the political system, and commended the people's response to the appeals of the political system. He said the system is the incontrovertible argument by means of which we shall fight the colonialists' culture. He pointed out that the sectoral conferences which will be held in the coming days must be considered as the beginning of a new stage, namely the national accord stage.

Lt. Gen. al-Bashir said that the permanent voters register will be completed in the coming days. This will preserve the citizens' right to participate with awareness in the elections. He said: The doors are still open, and equal opportunities are available for all.

Lt. Gen. al-Bashir said the coming phase will see the establishment of a fund in support of federal rule, and he stressed the need for a new administrative revolution in conformity with the comprehensive national strategy. Laws and regulations of the national institutions will be reviewed after the governorates and local governments have gained some experience.

In the speech opening the first sitting of the TNA's fifth session, the president of the Republic said: Economic reform will move forward, and there will be no going back. We are confident that we are on the right path. His Excellency said that inflation is a disease of economic stumbling. He pointed out that inflation requires patience.

His Excellency reviewed the achievements of raising the walls of the Rusayris and Sennar Dams, and the building of (Kajjibar) Dam. He said that Sudan's overall economic performance is unrivalled in Third World

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countries. He called for encouraging investment and combating smuggling.

Lt. Gen. al-Bashir confirmed that despite the economic blockade facing Sudan, the GDP has gone up. He made it clear that the policy of subsidizing the economic sector will continue in order to increase exports, and the areas under cultivation. Sudan will strive for the normalization of its relations with international financiers.

Foreign Minister on Uganda's 'Aggression'

MM2011162795 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 19 Nov 95 p 16

[Interview with Foreign Minister 'Ali 'Uthman Muhammad Taha by Muhammad Sa'id Muhammad al-Hasan in Khartoum; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] [al-Hasan] Are the declaration of general mobilization and the recent political and military measures confined to repulsing Ugandan aggression or are they connected with the declaration of direct war?

[Taha] Sudan is at present in a state of war with Uganda. It is a war that was forced upon Sudan, which has hitherto maintained a policy of patience and waiting during the past years in the face of Uganda's aggressive attitudes, which began in 1984 when it provided support for John Garang's [Sudanese People's Liberation] Movement, prompted by the close relationship between [Ugandan President] Yoweri Museveni and John Garang and their common bilateral outlook. Bilateral relations between the two men increased still further in 1986 and 1987 when Garang's forces achieved some military victories.

When the [Sudanese] National Salvation Revolution took place in June 1989, it embarked on a policy of rapprochement with the neighboring countries and achieved success in this regard. It also succeeded in neutralizing Museveni, who thereupon visited Sudan in mid-1990. Talks were held on bilateral cooperation and the development of relations between Uganda and Sudan provided that the former would stop supporting the rebels and stop interfering in Sudan's affairs. However, Uganda persisted in supporting Garang's Movement and permitted it to set up camps, provided it with relief, arms, and munitions, and permitted the passage of arms and military hardware, including Israeli weapons, across its territories to the rebels.

Further contacts followed between the two countries, resulting in the conclusion of an agreement on the deployment of supervisory officers on the borders between the two countries to prevent complaints by the opposing factions. Uganda, however, persisted in permitting the Garang forces to remain in its territories and opening offices in Uganda's main cities; Museveni maintained his close relationship with John Garang and permitted him to continue to deliver lectures at Makerere University and even to introduce him personally at these lectures on some occasions.

When relations between the two countries became tense in 1992, Libya offered its mediation. Museveni sent a letter to Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi in which he revealed his racist attitude toward Sudan and launched an attack on Sudan, accusing the Arab elements in it of oppressing the Africans. He said that racial discrimination in Sudan was worse than apartheid between Whites and Africans in South Africa and that there was religious and racial persecution in Sudan. He reiterated his allegations on numerous later occasions and demanded the imposition of regional and international sanctions against Sudan.

Yet, despite all these allegations, Sudan maintained a policy of self—restraint and refrained from waging any political or media campaigns against Uganda.

The Libyan mediation ended in what was known as the Tripoli Declaration, which provided for the creation of joint border and other committees. But before the ink was dry on the agreement, only 48 hours after its signing, Kampala announced the expulsion of Sudanese diplomats, tried to extricate itself from the agreement, and announced its famous farce about the existence of arms and ammunition at the premises of the Sudanese Consulate in Kampala. Sudan agreed to the searching of its consulate for these arms in the presence of the doyen of the diplomatic corps in Uganda and the Libyan ambassador. The search revealed that there were no such arms and ammunition, thus causing great embarrassment to Uganda, which tried to cover up this scandal by severing diplomatic relations with Sudan and expelling the consulate staff. Sudan took reciprocal action.

Following the intensification of tension between Sudan and Uganda, the president of Malawi embarked on a second mediation attempt and proposed an initiative to end the conflict. He visited Uganda and Sudan on the same day and managed to reach an agreement on the holding of a tripartite summit conference in Malawi and the formation of a tripartite committee, headed by Malawi, to carry out supervision operations at the borders and investigate any accusations exchanged between the two sides. Sudan abided by these measures, but Uganda persisted in bolstering the remnants of the rebel movement, which it sought to use as an insulating barrier against the Ugandan opposition in the north, as a pawn in its policy of supporting any military provocation committed against Sudan, and as a means to abort the Malawi mediation, because the Malawi

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president was a Muslim and Museveni therefore did not want him to succeed in his mediation and be accredited with the honor of achieving it.

Experience has shown that Museveni uses mediation to procrastinate and gain time and to serve his anti-Sudan objectives. During the 1995 Libyan celebration of the 1 September revolution anniversary, Museveni asked Libya to mediate once more, when he had worked to frustrate the Malawi mediation and before it, to blow up the Tripoli Declaration.

The development of events and Uganda's latest request to Libya to mediate have shown that the request for mediation was part of a scenario of war and aggression against Sudan. The Ugandan president launched a hostile campaign of statements and speeches against Sudan and declared on numerous occasions that he will attack Sudan on the pretext of chasing Ugandan opposition elements inside Sudan.

A number of Museveni's aides also took part in the hostile attacks, while the Ugandan defense minister tried to bestow a character of legitimacy on the plan of aggression against Sudan by seeking the permission and authority of the Ugandan parliament for military intervention. The Ugandan regime then began to rally elements from the various tribes as well as from the rebel movement and sent them, along with Ugandan Army forces, to the border area with Sudan, helped by the rebels [of Garang's movement] who acted as guides in the area.

Three military brigades, a number of tanks, and heavy and light field weapons, of types not known to be in the possession of the Ugandan Army, supported the offensive with intensive firing.

In the face of these Ugandan military developments, Sudan decided to repulse this aggression, considering it a military invasion by any criteria. So it took all necessary measures to safeguard its territory and considered itself in a state of war, after Uganda had violated all policies of good neighborhood and launched this military aggression. The Sudanese Armed Forces are now dealing with this aggression most ably. They have destroyed three tanks and taken control of the situation. The battles are still continuing. All observations indicate that Uganda has been daily receiving new modern weapons that are being moved to the borders.

[Al-Hasan] Do you expect Eritrea to play a similar role on the eastern borders?

[Taha] According to the information we have received, there is large-scale coordination between Uganda and Eritrea. The Ugandan president visited Asmara prior to his trip to Cairo. We have photographic documents that prove that Eritrean military elements have been training Garang's forces inside Sudanese territory. These pictures were submitted to the Organization of African Unity [OAU] as documents. We delivered the tapes pertaining to these pictures to current OAU Chairman Meles Zenawi during the recent OAU ministerial meeting. Furthermore, Museveni visited Cairo to exploit the deterioration of Sudan's relations with Egypt, to gain political support for the Ugandan aggression on Sudan.

[Al-Hasan] Official Sudanese statements have spoken of modern American weapons being supplied to the [Sudanese People's] Liberation Movement. Does the government believe that America supports the military action against Sudan?

[Taha] Some American officials have previously spoken of the U.S. Administration's intention to encourage the neighboring states, and specifically countries that are under its influence such as Ethiopia, Eritrea, and Uganda, to create trouble for Sudan. The United States is also bringing pressure to bear now, in one form or another, on Kenya and Chad.

[Al-Hasan] Has tension mounted also on the northern front with Egypt?

[Taha] The current bilateral relations [between Egypt and Sudan] are now tense and represent a total negation of the concept of Sudanese-Egyptian relations. This is because the more the political conditions in Egypt deteriorate, the greater the degree of tension in its relations with Sudan becomes. Egypt has tried to show that all its internal sufferings are due to foreign interference from Sudan, in an attempt to divert attention from what is happening internally and to win sympathy externally. We on our part affirm that what is taking place in Egypt concerns Egypt alone and Sudan has nothing to do with it.

Sudan is still anxious to tackle the question of relations with Egypt on a peaceful basis and the basis of mutual respect and noninterference in internal affairs.

During my New York meeting (with [Egyptian Foreign Minister] 'Amr Musa) last October, I reiterated our sincere desire to stop this deterioration of bilateral relations and to secure the holding of a joint security meeting to discuss Egyptian suspicions and apprehensions, within a comprehensive program that embraces all outstanding matters between the two countries.

We agreed that there are political differences between the two countries and that they may remain for some time, and that delaying or postponing the discussion of joint security issues would lead to the opening of many threatening doors to both countries. I reminded Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa of what I had put forward

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during our meeting in Cairo in March 1990 and told him that we could have been in a better position now if Cairo had taken seriously the proposals we put forward then and implemented them.

[Al-Hasan] Did your talks in New York also cover the question of Hala'ib?

[Taha] Yes. We said that the question of Hala'ib could be tackled within this context, that is within a comprehensive framework.

[Al-Hasan] Cairo has been accusing Khartoum of sheltering some of those accused in the attempt on the life of President Husni Mubarak in Addis Ababa. Have any contacts taken place in this regard?

[Taha] We discussed accusations that Sudan has been sheltering some of those accused in the attempt on the life of President Husni Mubarak during the meeting which I had in New York with Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa in the presence of both countries' UN representatives. I affirmed to him then that Sudan adheres to the agreement on extradition of criminals and that the Sudanese authorities have been taking measures to search for the accused. In order to affirm the transparency of our dealings with Egypt and our cooperation with it, I affirmed to him that Sudan is ready to abandon one of the important principles of national sovereignty and thus accept the dispatch of security experts [from Egypt] to take part in the search and investigation operation.

I also informed him that Sudan made such an offer to the Ethiopians 10 days after it received the Ethiopian dossier asking for a search for the accused. We told them that we do not object to the dispatch of a team to join our teams in searching for all who are accused of being connected with the incident.

Despite Egypt's unfounded accusations, which have revealed the weakness of the allegations about Sudan's connection with terrorism, Sudan is still anxious to tackle the question of bilateral relations on the basis it had proposed to Cairo, namely peaceful dialogue, mutual respect, noninterference in internal affairs, and the holding of a security meeting to discuss the question of apprehensions within the framework of a total program to resolve pending matters.

[Al-Hasan] What is Sudan's position now that Cairo and Addis Ababa have refered the question of sheltering the accused to the committee concerned with the resolution of African disputes?

[Taha] We believe that the blame in this regard falls on the shoulders of the Ethiopian president, since he is chairman of the current OAU session. He referred the accusations without Sudan's knowledge and without asking it to attend the first time.

Anyway, the OAU secretary general informed me in New York that the committee for resolving disputes will meet in Addis Ababa on 18 and 19 December. Despite the fact that the meeting will take place in a hostile land, as evident from numerous stances including the assassination of Sudanese there, we will participate in the meetings.

Tunisia

Niger Prime Minister Pays Visit, Meets Leaders

Discusses Cooperation With Counterpart

LD1711153795 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 17 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Hamed Karoui and Niger Prime Minister Hama Amadou today at noon at the government palace in Kasbah reviewed the new prospects for consolidating ties between the two brotherly countries resulting from the 3rd session of the Tunisian-Niger greater joint commission.

The two sides stressed the need for following up the cooperation projects and plans drawn up so that the two countries' peoples would feel their practical effects in their daily lives. In this context, the prominent role of human resources in enriching technical cooperation between Tunisia and Niger was reaffirmed, in view of it being the principal focus of development efforts.

The meeting also dealt with the new challenges posed by changes witnessed in the world, and the need for bolstering fraternal relations among African countries and consolidating the bridges of integration and solidarity, which are dictated by these changes.

Meets With President

LD1711190195 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 17 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Relations between Tunisia and Niger and prospects of giving impetus to bilateral relations in many spheres were the most prominent points discussed during President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali's meeting with Niger Prime Minister Hama Amadou at Carthage Palace this morning.

The Niger prime minister said he was honored to meet the head of state within the framework of his visit to Tunisia.

He said the visit sought to give fresh impetus to cooperation between the two countries in light of the

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promising resources available for that cooperation and as an expression of Niger's eagerness to strengthen its relations with Tunisia. In this context, the Niger prime minister said that he had come to inform President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali of his country's plan to boost its diplomatic and commercial representation in order to consolidate bilateral relations, particularly in the sphere of trade.

He said that the talks made it possible to review some of the big projects, highlighting the importance attached by Niger to the Tunisian experience in the field of creating oases.

He concluded his statement by saying that political issues concerning the African continent were discussed during the meeting. He expressed his pleasure that the two countries' views were identical on all these issues.

Prime Minister Hamed Karoui attended the talks.

Niger Prime Minister Hama Amadou left Tunisia this afternoon at the end of an official visit from 15 until 17 November. Prime Minister Hamed Karoui saw Hama Amadou off at Tunis-Carthage International Airport. He was also seen off by a number of members of the government, the doyen of the diplomatic corps in Tunisia, the governor of Tunis and the mayor of Tunis.

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Papers Urge Strategy To Stamp Out 'Terrorism'

NC2011110195 Paris AFP in English 1007 GMT 20 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Dubai, Nov 20 (AFP)— Newspapers in the Arab Gulf on Monday [20 November] urged countries around the world to adopt a joint strategy to eliminate terrorism following a bombing that killed 16 people at the Egyptian embassy in Pakistan.

The Saudi newspaper AL-JAZIRAH ran a story entitled "war on terrorism" in which it urged "international and regional organizations to join efforts in passing laws allowing them to stop terrorism."

Saudi Arabia's AL-YAWM daily said Sunday's bombing in Islamabad — which followed a November 13 bombing that killed six people at US-Saudi offices in Riyadh — aimed at "harming the image of Islam and Moslems" in the world.

"Those who claim responsibility for (such attacks) in the name of Islam are part of a satanic group which calls for the massacre, destruction and bloodletting of Muslims," it said.

The bombing in Riyadh was claimed by Islamic militant groups calling for the expulsion of US troops from Saudi Arabia.

Saudi Arabia's AL-RIYAD newspaper said "no country is able to take shelter from world terrorism. International cooperation is therefore necessary."

In Qatar, the AL-'ARAB newspaper urged Arab countries to urgently adopt a joint strategy "to eliminate division before it annihilates (Islamic) moral values and beliefs."

Qatar's AL-RAYAH newspaper said: "The countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) are urged to implement a decision by their interior ministers to fight extremism and terrorist acts and violence."

The GCC is made up of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Bahrain and Oman.

Kuwait

UN's Ekeus Arrives for Visit, Comments on Iraq

Says Easing of Sanctions 'Not Likely'

LD1911223995 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 2122 GMT 19 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Kuwait, 19 Nov — The executive chairman of the UN special commission to oversee the destruction of Iraq's weapons, Rolf Ekeus, stressed today that easing the sanctions imposed on Iraq was not likely in the foreseeable future.

In a statement to KUNA after his arrival here today — on a visit to Kuwait which comes within the framework of his tour to the Gulf — Ekeus said that the 15 members of the UN Security Council agreed on the fact that the claim by Iraq that it had implemented all UN resolutions on the liberation war of Kuwait was null and void. [passage omitted]

Ekeus is due to meet tomorrow Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, amir of the State of Kuwait; Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah Al-Salim al-Sabah, heir apparent and prime minister; and Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah, first deputy prime minister and foreign minister. [passage omitted]

Suspects Iraq of Producing Missile Engines

LD2011204795 Kuwait KSC Television in Arabic 1800 GMT 20 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Rolf Ekeus, head of the UN team overseeing Iraqi disarmament, held a news conference this evening during which he announced that the UN commission suspected that Iraq had secretly produced missile engines similar to those of the Russian Scud missiles.

He added that the commission would continue its work to ensure that the Iraqi weapons program was being fully monitored.

[Unidentified correspondent] Head of the UN commission responsible for eliminating Iraqi mass-destruction weapons, Rolf Ekeus, held a news conference at about 1830 [1530 GMT] this evening at Kuwait-Sheraton hotel, during which he talked about the commission's work in eliminating Iraqi biological and chemical weapons. [passage omitted]

Ekeus said that the commission suspected that Iraq had produced missile engines similar to those in Russian Scud missiles. He added that Iraq was still hiding some of these missiles and that the commission would continue its work to ensure that chemical and biological weapons were under control.

Regarding the report he is due to submit to the UN Security Council in mid-December, he said it would include information recently supplied by Iraq. However, he pointed out that the information was not exactly new.

Ekeus stressed that the UN commission had destroyed whatever was possible of the mass-destruction weapons possessed by the Iraqi regime. He added that the Iraqi regime was persistently trying to mislead the commission regarding its biological program. Ekeus

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pointed out that the Iraqi regime still possessed those weapons and that the commission was determined to proceed with its work to get the information on the Iraqi regime's program for the production of weapons of mass destruction which it was hiding.

Ekeus did not reveal the nature of the information obtained from the head of the Iraqi regime's son-in-law, Husayn Kamil, who fled to Jordan. He said that the commission would analyze the information and would submit its information and report to the UN Security Council on the basis of its analysis.

Ekeus said that Iraq still possessed lethal weapons. He pointed out that Iraqi officials had denied that they had these weapons and said that they had produced and destroyed them secretly. Ekeus cast doubt on the Iraqi officials' statements.

Ekeus said that the monitoring and verification system was working well. He said that the UN commission's experts paid surprise visits to the installations which had been used to produce all kinds of weapons of mass destruction and that UN aircraft made reconnaissance flights without prior warning to confirm the nature of the current work of those installations.

In reply to a question on the nature of the commission's work and the possibility of the result of its work and its information being leaked, Ekeus said that the commission took precautionary measures to ensure and maintain the security of its information. He said that those working for the commission did not have the right to look at the results of the commission's work, and that measures were taken to prevent the leaking of information.

Ekeus stressed that Iraqi officials were hiding a lot of information and that the commission's work depended largely on Iraqi cooperation and their provision of the correct information as required by the commission, which had not been the case so far.

At his news conference, Rolf Ekeus stressed that the United Nations was determined to continue the monitoring and verification system and was planning to develop and support the system to ensure stability in the region.

Aerial Mobilization Exercise 'Blue Sky 2' Starts

LD2011144695 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1336 GMT 20 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Kuwait, 20 Nov — The aerial mobilization exercise codenamed "Blue Sky 2" started this morning. It is the largest such exercise to take place since liberation, and all of the Kuwaiti Air Force units are taking part.

A Kuwaiti military source told KUNA that the exercise is the second of its kind, and is intended to complement the previous exercise "Blue Sky 1." He said the exercise will last for three days.

The source said that all air and air defense bases, early warning stations, and operation rooms and centers will take part in the exercise, and that the Kuwaiti Air Force "F-15's," helicopters, and transport planes will perform a joint scenario with some land and naval units by flying during the day and at night, and using live ammunition at some stages of the exercise. [passage omitted]

He said the new air defense system "Starburst" will play a role in the exercise for the first time since it was introduced to service this year.

Shaykh 'Hopeful' on Reconciliation With Jordan

JN1811162895 Kuwait KUWAIT TIMES in English 8 Nov 95 pp 1, 4

[Report by Sa'd al-'Unayzi]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kuwait: First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah told KUWAIT TIMES yesterday he is hopeful on reconciliation with Jordan and other countries that sided with Iraq during its occupation of Kuwait. He predicted a rapprochement soon, saying he does not want to set specific dates. Asked if Jordan has satisfied Kuwait's conditions for reconciliation, the first deputy prime minister implied that Jordan had indeed satisfied Kuwait's conditions through statements it issued during in the UN general assembly session and the Non Aligned Movement (NAM) meeting held in Colombia. Jordan gave statements at the UN and NAM meetings "on all it has been asked on this regard," said Shaykh Sabah. Kuwait demands that such countries should firmly state their support for all UN Security Council resolutions related to Iraq's invasion of Kuwait. Jordan called on Iraq to implement the UN resolutions and is supporting the sanctions against Iraq according to Robert Pelletreau, assistant secretary of state for near eastern affairs who visited Kuwait this week.

A prominent MP strongly criticised the government for what he called "chaos" in foreign policy during yesterday's Assembly session. Ahmad al-Khatib, a liberal MP, said the government was sending mixed signals regarding its relations with countries that sided with Iraq. "We must end this chaos," said al-Khatib.

"There is a contradiction between you and the prime minister," al-Khatib said, looking across the Assembly benches at Shaykh Sabah. "One day you meet the Jordanian foreign minister and the next day the (Kuwaiti) prime minister says we should not yet have relations

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with Jordan," the opposition veteran said. His Highness the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Sabah restated in a recent press conference Kuwait's demand that such countries should meet Kuwait's conditions before reconciliation could take place. His statement came few days after the first deputy prime minister met the Jordanian foreign minister 'Abd al-Karim al-Kabariti and spoke of improving relations with Jordan.

"The government must unify its position," former trade and industry minister 'Abdallah al-Hajiri told reporters. Shaykh Sabah replied the government was united. "We do not have two cabinets," he said.

Shaykh Sabah has often spoken in favour of a gradual detente with Amman, provided it calls on Iraq to comply with all Gulf War ceasefire terms. Shaykh Sa'd has spoken strongly against any improvement of ties with pro-Iraq states for the time being.

Shaykh Sabah has met al-Kabariti on several occasions this year in one of several signs of a warning in relations.

Some MPs said they also wanted Kuwait to stop what one called a "superpower" style of Arab diplomacy that might further alienate pro-Iraq states and lead outsiders to conclude Kuwait was in some way responsible for sanctions against Baghdad. "We want the other countries to come and kiss our hands. For what? Till when?" al-Khatib said. "Sometimes the Kuwaiti attitude is expressed in very strong language, as if to say we are responsible for the embargo," said opposition MP 'Abdallah al-Nibari.

Al-Khatib said he was dismayed by the surprise evident among Kuwaiti officials at a call last month by United Arab Emirates President Shaykh zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan for lifting sanctions against Iraq and reconciliation with pro-Iraq states.

The call was the clearest sign yet that opinion in some parts of the Gulf is starting to favour lifting sanctions against Iraq. Shaykh Sabah, who met Shaykh Zayid after his call for lifting sanctions, told the Assembly that "our brothers in the Gulf have not changed their stance toward Kuwait, politically or militarily until Iraq complies with all UN Security Council resolutions."

Al-Khatib said the surprise showed that despite the trauma of Iraq's 1990 invasion, Kuwait had still not learned to predict regional political trends. This was dangerous because such a failure had helped make possible the invasion "catastrophe".

"We know we are not the United States. We are a Third World country. We have to know our size. We must not feel we are a superpower," said Shaykh Sabah.

"I assure Dr. al-Khatib that we are aware of changes and developments in the region's equilibrium and we shall keep a watchful eye on emerging developments."

MP Ya'qub Hayati warned against advisors who are sympathetic towards Iraq in GCC governments.

Oman

Sultanate Denounces Islamabad Bombing

LD2011181695 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1635 GMT 20 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Muscat, 20 Nov (SPA) — The Sultanate of Oman today denounced the explosion which hit the Egyptian embassy in Islamabad yesterday. It has reaffirmed its rejection of terrorism regardless of the motives or reasons. [passage omitted]

Minister Cited on Gulf Summit, Regional Issues

MM2111122295 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 21 Nov 95 pp 1, 4

[Report by Sa'id 'Isa: "Muscat: There Is Nothing To Prevent Omanis From Traveling to Israel"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Muscat — Yusuf Bin-'Alawi Bin-'Abdallah, Omani minister of state for foreign affairs, has said that the Gulf summit will be held as scheduled. However, he did not specify the date. It had been reported that the summit would be held on 4 December, but other sources spoke of the possibility of it being postponed for a week or 10 days.

In a statement to reporters covering the Sultanate of Oman's silver jubilee celebrations, Bin-'Alawi said that there are good preparations for the Gulf summit. He said that the border issues will not be referred to the summit.

On relations with Israel, Bin-'Alawi said that representation offices will be opened soon in the Sultanate and israel. He stressed that the Arab world will not return to the pre-Madrid conference stage, and that Israel needs the peace more than the Arabs. He said that Omani citizens are not prevented or banned from traveling to Israel. He was answering a question about passports stamped with a visa saying "valid for all Arab states except Israel." Bin-'Alawi said "how can there be trade when citizens cannot travel to Israel?"

Asked about the Qatari gas deal with Israel, Bin-'Alawi said, "and how do you know there is no Arab oil in Israel?!"

He stressed that the West Bank has huge capabilities: human resources, history, agriculture, and other capabilities.

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The Omani minister stressed that his country has been supporting peace since the Camp David accords and has declared its support for the peace agreements signed by the Palestinians and the Jordanians with Israel.

At another level, Bin-'Alawi cited Sudan as an example of mismanagement, saying that "it is not a poor state. It is a rich state, but there is mismanagement. Sudan has become poor as a result of mismanagement."

Bin-'Alawi said that there is nothing to prompt an Arab summit, and disputes can be resolved through bilateral meetings. There is nothing to prevent such meetings from being held.

He said that he has not heard the phrase "frankness before reconciliation" from any Kuwaiti official. However, the Iraqi Government must implement the international resolutions in order to rescue the Iraqi people.

Bin-'Alawi stressed that the Damascus declaration is not dead. It exists, and debates over it are continuing.

Saudi Arabia

CDLR's al-Mas'ari on Bombing, Saudi Situation

JN1711201995 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1650 GMT 17 Nov 95

["Exclusive" interview with Dr. Muhammad al-Mas'ari, official spokesman of the London-based Committee for the Defense of Legitimate Rights in Saudi Arabia, by Salim Badawi; place and date not given; from "The Event" program — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [al-Mas'ari] In view of the little information available it is difficult now to know the party behind the recent Riyadh bombing. Naturally, rumors said Iran is behind it, but this is largely ruled out because Iran depends on the Shiites whose center is in the Eastern Region. I rule out that the Shiites went to Riyadh, which is unknown to them, and became involved in such an action. However, this is not totally impossible.

Some signs indicate that the bombing resulted from disputes among brothers in the Al Sa'ud family, but this needs long discussions. However, this possibility is also ruled out.

Naturally, accusations are leveled at some zealous youths who lost their heads. Contacts between these youths and their leaders ceased. As you know, these leaders are now in prison. Hence, these youths might have begun to calmly or soundly interpret things — which is not under discussion now — so they carried out this violent action.

As you know, at least three organizations have thus far claimed responsibility. This means that at least two, if not all, of these organizations have lied. We have never heard of the Tigers of the Gulf. The Partisans of God announced itself only yesterday. We have heard of the Jihad Wing of the Islamic Movement for Change.

There is a problem regarding this movement. Most previous statements were not made by telephone but through written statements; and, you might have read its first and second statements which call on the foreign forces to leave the Arabian Peninsula. This time, though, the movement did not issue a written statement. This casts doubt on this movement's claim. There is also doubt as to whether any of the three groups really carried out the bombing.

[Badawi] Can it be said that there is a fundamentalist Saudi group inside Saudi Arabia, which is naturally an opposition group, that calls for making a change through violence, and that it is now expressing its demands through violence?

[Al-Mas'ari] It can be said so [words indistinct] small groups, because we know that not less than 5,000 Saudi youths received combat training in Afghanistan. Some estimate the group at approximately 10,000 youths. These youths have thus far remained calm and disciplined because they could not obtain a fatwa [religious ruling] from any distinguished personality or from the shaykhs of youths and leaders such as Safar al-Hawali, Salman al- 'Awdah, and the Committee [for the Defense of Legitimate Rights] [CDLR], and so on.

Whenever we, and these enlightened shaykhs, were asked to issue a fatwa permitting violence, the request was turned down. They rejected the use of force because legitimate parties issue legitimate rulings governed by the religion and not by the mood.

As these leaders are now in prison and are completely away from the youths, it is not strange that small groups scattered here and there have extremist views. Thus, a very grave danger exists.

[Badawi] As a CDLR official, do you support such actions, or do you condemn terrorism and violence?

[Al-Mas'ari] Several facts should be acknowledged: First, the CDLR consists of a group of intellectuals, reformists, and politicians. We work for changing the state and the community. States and communities are usually not changed by force. Views, convictions, ideologies, and the prevailing feelings are [word indistinct]. In other words, a struggling public opinion is generated. This is the right way to change communities and states. We believe in this method for religious and objective reasons, and we act accordingly.

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There are two serious things that we cannot deny: First, there are foreign forces in the Arabian Peninsula in violation of a religious ruling in this regard. This ruling stipulates that no non-Islamic force working independently whether in the form of an organized church or state or an armed force belonging to an Islamic state should be present in the Arabian Peninsula. This ruling is exclusive to the Arabian Peninsula.

Second, this ruling also applies to the entire Islamic World, so Muslims should not seek help from non-Muslims in fighting, even against non-Muslims. Frank sayings by Prophet Muhammd banned seeking help from polytheists in the fighting against polytheists, let alone fighting the Muslims. So why is this force present?

According to the norms of the public and the zealous youths, this force is illegitimate even if the Saudi regime claims that it invited this force to provide certain services with its permission and after consultations with the regime.

The Saudi regime invited foreign forces which are working independently under their own banner. According to the current international law, these forces are not apparently a colonialist force, but in actual fact they are so. Hence, they cannot prevent the zealous youths from addressing them as such. This will cause great embarrassment for these forces and for the Saudi regime.

If we wish to call this matter a declaration of war, then this war is directed against the Saudi regime. The Americans were an easy target on the road, which does not cause ideological or religious problems. This target was thus attacked.

[Badawi] Do you mean that the headquarters of the U.S. military mission in Riyadh, which deals with the Saudi National Guard, was chosen only because it was an easy target?

[Al-Mas'ari] It was easy from the ideological viewpoint as well as from the technical and material viewpoint. Suppose a bomb goes off in a residential complex or a market, then you will involve yourself in the big question: How could you kill uninvolved innocent people?

[Badawi] In your opinion, what are the reverberations of this attack inside Saudi Arabia? Do you expect the regime to make any change?

[Al-Mas'ari] I am very pessimistic, not because it is impossible to make a change—in fact, a change can be made, and many messages were sent to the regime [words indistinct] complete 40-50 page memorandums which include procedural steps to change the bad situation into a better one. Praise be to God, we took part in writing these memorandums. However, you perhaps do not know the mentality of the Al Sa'ud family which does not create an atmosphere for social and political change based on dialogue, argument, verifications, and the exchange of views, criticism, and advice. From this premise, I am pessimistic.

CDLR Monitor Issues Bulletin No. 71

MS2111103095 London CDLR Monitor in English 25 Oct 95

[Bulletin No. 71 of the Committee for the Defense of Legitimate Rights of Saudi Arabia, (CDLR) — received via Internet 20 November]

[FBIS Transcribed Text]

Your Right To Know — The Bombing in Beesha; The Analysis

The Saudi Media conveyed the official statement, issued by the Saudi Interior Ministry last Saturday, of the incident of Al Koba Mosque in Beesha. Several people were killed and over 100 injured. The television channels later reported more details about the incident and Khalid Al-Faysal appeared personally in a press conference. The Committee learned the news of the explosion from confidential sources late last Friday, and when comparing the details with those officially released, the news was found to be correct, which was an unusual move for the regime. In fact, the news was speedily released to the public with all the relevant details. The whole incident, however, and the regime's response to it in covering the news publicly provides the following indicators:- 1) It reflects the severe decline in the security of the country as the crime rate and incidence of armed robberies, rape and murder have risen rapidly. This causes a great deal of fear and concern amongst the citizens. People have become fearful of the authorities on one hand and the criminals on the other. The incident at Beesha where a number of people became the victims of a criminal act is just one of many examples. 2) The increase in the crime rate indicates the tolerance of the security services, as their concentration is mainly focused on reformers and preachers, who are considered to be more dangerous than criminals. 3) This incident provides a timely and dangerous warning to the regime as to how easy it is to use bombs and receive weapons. If an ordinary person seeking tribal revenge was able to acquire explosives and cause such damage, then this means that many of the oppressed youths who are prevented by the regime from exercising all forms of free expression, and who suffer from the oppressive policies adopted by al-Sa'ud, could then easily resort to such methods. This escalation could lead to a vicious circle of violence and bloodshed.

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Claims of control will not help as it is almost impossible to prevent the "explosion" method. Probably the best examples to use are the incidence of explosions in France or Palestine, where the difference between al-Sa'ud's security and that of the French or Zionists is only too clear. 4) This incident is a clear indication of the total failure of al- Sa'ud to solve the ever increasing problems and disputes between various tribes and families. The main reason behind this failure is the judiciary system, as it is influenced by the interference of princes, influential figures and corruption. This has all led to a great deal of injustice and therefore there is much hatred between the people. Many have been forced to conclude that in order to achieve their rights they must take the law into their own hands. The bombing is an example of this. Al-Sa'ud, or the regime, are not only failing to solve problems but they are actually creating and spreading hatred and distrust between the tribes. 5) The speedy public coverage of the news by the regime is a clear indication of the regime's immense "concern" that the Committee might have announced the news publicly before the regime had done so, and so placed al-Sa'ud in an extremely embarrassing situation. The reader may remember that al-Sa'ud's media and press did not declare the news of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait for 5 whole days after the event. So why should they declare a much smaller incident in so much detail so rapidly? It is certainly a victory for the Committee's project which has always insisted and requested that the nation should be made fully aware of any news of importance to them.

On the other hand, some of our local sources feared that the incident may have been planned by the security body itself. Inspite of the fact that all of the possibilities remain open, particularly when dealing with the confused mentalities of al-Sa'ud, we believe that the involvement of the security forces to be a remote possibility for one very important reason. Al-Sa'ud, at the present time, do not want people to receive the impression that any opposition group is capable of even shooting one bullet. This is the Interior Minister's logic exactly. He recently faced a group of scholars, Shaykh Ibn-Baz amongst them, in a special meeting in which the scholars warned him that the continuation of arrests and oppression may place the Kingdom into a situation similar to Algeria. Nayif's reply was extremely tough, and he informed the scholars that the security forces are in total control of the situation and not one bullet had been shot within the Kingdom. It is not expected that Nayif would prove himself wrong by plotting such an action.

News — Car Theft in A'Taif...

According to sources in the police patrol department in A'Taif, the incidence of car theft is on average one car stolen every two hours. The same sources also say that incentives have been introduced to reward the police in order to attmempt to reduce the theft of cars. A'Taif is only a small town compared to Riyadh or Jeddah, and the information received by the Committee with regard to the crime rate in those two cities is that it has nearly reached the same level of crime as in various American cities.

Armed Robbery in Dammam...

At midday last Wednesday, an armed gang raided the gold market in Al Dammam and escaped with a huge amount of gold. This incident was not declared in the media and press of al-Sa'ud.

Robbery in Al Gharbiya...

The building of the girls college in al-Gharbiya was under threat of robbery. The guard on duty resisted the gang and was killed which caused the thieves to panic and quickly withdraw.

Shooting in Public...

Close to the Inter-Continental Hotel in A'Taif, a group from the official Institution of Enjoining Good were shot at. The incident was reported to the police, who expressed their admiration for the group for being courageous enough to enter a gang-controlled area which the police themselves are afraid to enter!

Bandar and the New Hospital...

Two months ago, King Fahd and Prince Bandar appeared on television for a few hours to celebrate the opening of the new King Faisal Hospital, for which Bandar has signed three contracts with American universities. The project cost more than 3 billion dollars most of which will go straight into the pockets of Bandar and others. The conditions of the contracts are basically to provide a group of American doctors to work in the hospital on a system of routine visits. Based on this contract, a number of newly graduated doctors have been sent to the hospital at a cost of a thousand dollars a day per doctor. The contract included the installation of a satellite communication network with the universities involved. The whole affair was exaggerated totally out of proportion in an attempt to justify the huge amount of spending on the project, even though experts state that the real cost of such a project should not have exceeded 50-100 million dollars. A few months after the project began, the resources of the hospital began to fail to pay for its running and as no one can touch the American

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side of the project, the solution was to transfer the funds of other hospital departments to pay for the American contracts. This has obviously greatly affected many hospital services. One of the humorous stories circulating about the project is that one of the universities wanted to keep one of its new graduate doctors employed so they sent him to work in the hospital for a month and convinced the doctor that the $30,000 he earned was actually a year's salary, not just for one month as was actually the case !

More arrests...

The arrests continue unabated throughout the Kingdom. We have received a long list of the recent arrests in al-Qasim. Amongst those mentioned were Salah al-Dubaybi, Sami al-'Imshaygah, Salih al-Rujaji, Sami al-Sanaydi, Saleh al-Ghafays, Mansur al-Sagabi, Khalid al-Ghafays and Salah Bin-Hamud al-Uqyi, who are all from the Qasim branch of Imam University. From high school, Majid al-Raqibah, Adil al-Tuayjiri, Majid al-Fayruze and Ahmed al-Ghafays were all arrested. The young man mentioned last week as being arrested was named as Khalid Ahmed al- 'Abbassi.

Beaten To Death...

An Indonesian worker who overstayed his visa was chased by police in Mecca and was beaten severely in the street when arrested because he attempted to escape. The man died as a result of the severity of the beating he received. What is perhaps worse is that the body was treated badly even after death, and his family will face difficult treatment and deportation.

The Strike of The Week...

The cleaning staff of 'Uyun al-Hijaz company demonstrated in front of the labour office in Mecca to express their resentment at the delay in payment of their salaries which are 15 months overdue.

The Troubleshooter...

In a general meeting with the principal of Um al-Qura University the students expressed their anger at the delay in payment of their grants for many months, particularly as some of them are totally dependant on this money. The reply of Dr. al-Karthi, who sounded extremely concerned for the Kingdom's finances, was that quite frankly he did not believe that students even needed to receive grants! He further shocked the students by stating his intention to write to the higher authorities to convince them that students did not really require Government assistance.

A Declaration ... The following is our correct address in America:- CDLR, P.O. Box 16585; Washington D.C.20041 USA; Telephone: 703 3188217; Fax: 703 310 9259.

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New Security Aide Named; 'Udayy's Influence Said Increasing

MM2111121695 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 21 Nov 95 pp 1,6

[Report by Salamah Nu'man: "Baghdad: Al-Hababi Succeeds Sab'awi; 'Udayy's Influence on the Increase"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Amman — Reliable Iraqi sources confirmed yesterday that Iraqi President Saddam Husayn has appointed Lieutenant General Hatim al-Hababi new director general of Public Security, after dismissing his half brother Sab'awi Ibrahim from this post.

Lt. Gen. al-Hababi was the director of Military Security, a branch of Military Intelligence. The sources said that al-Hababi comes from a small village near Tikrit, the Iraqi president's birthplace.

The sources explained to AL-HAYAH that Saddam Husayn effectively removed Sab'awi after dismissing his brother Watban from the Interior Ministry four months ago. They pointed out that since Watban's dismissal Sab'awi had left the Public Security directorate, and is receiving his official mail at one of his farms.

They added that the decision to remove Sab'awi for good had been taken before Husayn Kamil's defection to Jordan over three months ago, but that it was not implemented until last week.

Some observers said that the removal of Sab'awi and Watban before him is part of the Iraqi president's attempt at being seen to reduce the family's role in the state. It should be mentioned that neither Watban nor Sab'awi has been appointed to another post, nor have they been arrested.

The sources denied that the Iraqi president has effectively reduced the powers enjoyed by his eldest son 'Udayy, pointing out that "the measures taken are cosmetic and temporary" and have in fact helped to increase the influence of the president's son and bolster his position.

They explained that 'Udayy's removal from both the journalists' and the artists' federations had "saved him from his weaknesses" while he is still being allowed by the Iraqi president to retain overall control of his effective powers and his authority over the various ministries and foreign trade, in addition to organizing "Saddam's Fedayeen."

'Udayy shot his uncle Watban in the leg on 8 August 1995, incurring the restrained anger of the president, who claimed that he had no prior knowledge of the incident. Husayn Kamil's defection to Jordan with his brother Saddam and their wives, both daughters of the Iraqi president, followed the incident of the shooting of Watban. Husayn and Saddam Kamil were very close to 'Udayy. No effective measures were taken against 'Udayy after he fired 10 bullets at his uncle and killed 12 of his supporters and aides, including five who were drowned, because the incident took place in a house overlooking the river.

People arriving from Baghdad say that 'Udayy still has direct personal influence over all cabinet ministers and still controls foreign trade, especially with Iran, as well as the paramilitary militia, the "Saddam Fedayeen." The Iraqi president, however, still relies on the political support of his younger son Qusayy, a member of the Armed Forces Military Command, who has total control over the Republican Guard in addition to presiding over the Joint Coordination Committee, a military committee coordinating between the special security organ (also led by Qusayy), the Republican Guard, and the special guard, with all their affiliated emergency troops, whose tasks include protecting Baghdad's access routes and streets and intervening in times of trouble.

Despite some rivalry between the two brothers, which has not reached crisis point yet, 'Udayy relies on his brother Qusayy in many security issues, such as running the investigation teams and training the Saddam Fedayeen legions of special guards loyal to Qusayy. 'Udayy still runs BABIL, Iraq's most influential newspaper.

Paper on Rejection of 986 Under 'Present Formulation'

JN2011193895 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 10 Nov 95 p 2

["Standpoint" column by Dr. Liqa' Makki: "Why Do We Reject Resolution 986?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Since the issuance of UN Security Council Resolution 986 last April, Iraq has been reiterating its categorical rejection of this resolution. This resolution intends to entrench a political status quo which constitutes a direct infringement on Iraq's sovereignty, territorial integrity, national independence and security, and the right to dispose of its own resources.

If this resolution was issued to absorb the increasing international calls for removing the blockade and ending the Iraqi people's suffering, it is the intensification of these calls and Iraq's fulfillment of its obligations under the Security Council resolutions which has prompted the West and its political and propaganda organs this time to create the impression that Iraq would be willing to accept this resolution as a solution to meeting part of its basic humanitarian needs, rather than the complete and final removal of the blockade. Moreover,

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the continuation of the blockade has become a moral and legal burden on the Security Council because of the pressure exerted by the United States, which has so far failed to implement the basic part of its plan against our country.

Western claims are not founded on realistic or practical bases, because in its present formulation [sighah] Resolution 986 was born carrying the causes of its own death. This resolution exploits the harsh circumstances of the blockade in order to ruin the geographic and political entity of Iraq and the unity of its land and people. But our discerning wise leadership has fully understood the aim, and worked with the people in order to expose and resist it by every means and capability. The Iraqi people, who have suffered from the woes of the blockade for more than five years, will not have their long patience result in an incomplete solution, which is no more than a trap that could lead to further suffering and serious challenges that go beyond the lack of food and medicine to a state of division, separation, and loss of sovereignty, security, and independent decisionmaking.

Furthermore, the "facilities' stipulated by the resolution, such as partial export of oil under certain conditions, will only provide crumbs that will barely meet the minimum basic needs of the Iraqi people. This makes acceptance of Resolution 986 in its present formulation a sacrifice of the most important foundations of our lives and future without getting anything in return that would really deal with the effects of the blockade and relieve our people of some of their burdens.

The blockade and the grievous and intentional harm it has done to our Iraqi people is an established fact which strongly imposes itself on the world's conscience. If the Security Council wants to be fair or at least rise to the level of its legal responsibilities, it has only one course before it, which is to apply Paragraph 22 of Resolution 687, which provides for lifting the blockade. It should not continue proposing partial and vicious proposals and solutions on the pattern of Resolution 986, which Iraq rejects and will continue to reject until it achieves its full rights without compromising its sovereignty and the future of its land and people.

Gulf War POW's, MIA's Discussed at Buffer Zone

JN2011212195 Baghdad Mother of Battles Radio in Arabic 1830 GMT 20 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Iraqi and Kuwaiti sides held a new meeting on the Iraqi territory of the no-man's-land today under the auspices of the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC] to discuss the file of the POW's and people missing during the war.

The ICRC delegate announced during the two sides' last meeting on 25 October that the Iraqis had so far presented [word indistinct] on 126 files through contacts that take place periodically between the Iraqi and Kuwaiti sides in the UN-sponsored no-man's-land.

Tariq 'Aziz Meets French Foreign Ministry Official

JN2011125595 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1050 GMT 20 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 20 Nov (INA) — Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz met today with Denis Bouchard, head of the Middle East Department at the French Foreign Ministry. The meeting took place in a cordial and constructive atmosphere. The two officials exchanged views on the relationship between Iraq and the Security Council.

The meeting was attended by Dr. Riyad al-Qaysi, under secretary of the Foreign Ministry, and the head of the French interests section in Baghdad.

Denis Bouchard arrived in Baghdad last night on a visit to Iraq lasting several days.

Paper: U.S. Responsible for People's Suffering

JN2111081595 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 5 Nov 95 p 2

["Standpoint" column by 'Isa Isma'il al-'Abbadi: "The Suffering of the Iraqi People and the U.S. Administration's Responsibility"]

[FBIS Translated Text] When the Humanitarian Affairs Department of the United Nations confirms the growing feeling of concern among international humanitarian organizations toward the intense human suffering in Iraq, this means that the U.S. and British policy of deception has failed in its attempts to conceal the facts from the world public and international organizations.

Citing the World Food Program, the Humanitarian Affairs Department in the United Nations has revealed that four million Iraqis, including 2.4 million children under the age of five, are facing the danger of malnutrition and that scores of others died during the years of the unfair blockade.

The attitude of the United States and Britain against the international community's desire to lift the blockade on the Iraqi people means that both are actively taking part in the war of annihilation against the Iraqi people.

It is known to the world public that Washington and London are trying hard inside and outside the lobbies of the Security Council to prolong the unfair blockade despite Iraq's fulfillment of its obligations under Resolution 687.

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The United States and Britain, which are using false excuses to maintain the blockade, claim that Iraq can benefit from the suspect resolutions, which permit it to export a limited quantity of oil in order to pay for its food and medicine imports. But, they have not told the world that these resolutions are full of restrictions and direct interference in Iraq's internal affairs and that they violate its national sovereignty and independence.

It has become clear that the full responsibility for the suffering of the Iraqi people lies on the United States due to the hideous imperialist policy it pursues. Otherwise, what is the meaning of 117 world nations voting against the U.S. embargo of Cuba with only three voting for it, including the United States? Does it not mean that Washington stands against human rights and the world public represented by this massive congregation of nations?

The U.S. Administration must listen to the voice of reason, right, and justice and respect human rights. The blockade is bound to vanish whether the U.S. Administration likes it or not. For, honest voices are being heard today inside and outside the Arab homeland demanding an end to this unfair blockade and, above all, to the suffering of the Iraqi people. The basis for ending the blockade is the steadfastness of the great Iraqi people, who said their final word on the day of the great referendum when they said yes to the leader of their heroic steadfastness, Saddam Husayn.

So, the imperialists must stop their desperate attempts at interfering in the affairs of independent states. Nations which have achieved their independence through struggle and sacrificed their pure blood in order to gain their freedom, cannot compromise their struggle history, dignity, and national honor and independence for the sake of the evil imperialists and their servants. Thus, the only course left for reaching an understanding with free peoples is that of dialogue with their national leaders, who represent their free will, on the basis of international pacts, laws, and norms and away from the methods of threat, pressure, extortion, using force and violence, and committing the crime of unfair blockade.

Article on 'Zionist' Plan, Strengthening Arabism

JN2011190295 Baghdad AL-QADISIYAH in Arabic 11 Nov 95 p 3

[Article by Sa'd Qasim Hammudi, secretary general of the Arab Popular Forces Conference: "Rabin's Assassination and the Flimsiness of the Alien Zionist Society"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Rabin's assassination has highlighted the Zionist society's flimsiness and serious internal contradictions. For 47 years, the imperialist media have been disseminating a big lie, which is now believed by many people including some Arabs, that Israel is a model of modern society and an oasis of democracy and human rights in the middle of an arid desert of Arab dictatorships, where human dignity is violated and public liberties are lacking.

Although we will not be revealing anything new in pointing out the existing discrimination between the influential Western Jews, or Ashkenazim, and the Eastern Jews, or Sephardim who are on a lower rung of the political, economic, and social ladder, it is a fact that the phenomenon of fanaticism, extremism, religious bigotry, and Talmudic introversion has emerged as an influential factor in the political life of the Zionist entity, to the extent that winning over the small religious parties which practice the policy of dictatorship of the oligarchy has become necessary to guarantee the formation of any ruling political coalition under the Labor Party or the Likud.

The major world media monopolies, many of which are directly controlled and financed by Zionists, have played a hideous role in deceiving and brainwashing the international public by portraying Israel as a utopian society, despite the fact that it is overburdened with economic problems, including unemployment and inflation, and made up of a heterogeneous population, which lacks any harmony due to the different ethnic, geographic, and cultural backgrounds of its Jewish communities. In fact, one could say that there is a great deal of similarity between U.S. society and Israeli society, since both fit the description of "a nation of disunited peoples" rather than that of noble people who are deeply rooted in history and civilization. The Jews transferred their introverted small ghetto community to the usurped land of Palestine under the delusion that was is the promised land for God's chosen people. Herzl had claimed that "Palestine is a land without people, for a people without land"!!

The assassination of enemy Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin at the hand of a law student, Yig'al 'Amir, has aroused many contradictions and opened the door to a new phase of conflict within this alien Jewish society. Killing a Jew by a Jewish bullet is a violation of certain sanctities. It is bound to escalate the conflict between Zionist political forces, whether in the so-called right, center, or left. All trends stem from the same mythical belief and serve the same common interests, albeit by different methods. The history and nature of Israel are reflected by the nature of the terrorist armed gangs that sprang up at the beginning of the cancerous settlement of Arab Palestine in order to establish the state of Greater Israel from the Euphrates to the Nile with the absolute support of world imperialism, represented first by Britain and later the United States.

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The continued existence of Israel cannot be due to its own strength, since it is an alien, false existence and a hollow entity, but rather to the convergence of the interests and policies of world imperialism and world Zionism in dividing the Arab World, enslaving it, plundering its resources, and foiling its national cultural plan for unity, democracy, and progress.

The Arab Socialist Ba'th Party believed right from the beginning that "confronting Zionism, rather than capitulating to it and negotiating with, is only means to resist it and avert its danger, and confronting the Zionist enemy cannot be separated from confronting the imperialist enemy." It is this belief that has characterized the course of the great 17-30 July 1968 Revolution for more than 27 years in its endeavor to preserve Arab Palestine, liberate it, and oppose all capitulatory plans which are aimed at liquidating the Arab nation's rights, violating its sovereignty, and plundering its resources.

The Arab struggle against Zionism and imperialism is a struggle of existence and destiny. It is also a cultural struggle. Leader President Saddam Husayn says: "When the conflict is over culture and destiny, this means that it a continuous and long struggle which must cover all aspects of pan-Arab development."

Therefore, an agreement on this or that track with the Zionist entity will not end this conflict, since it is a conflict with the entire nation and against the whole of Arabdom; on the contrary, it will lead to a new turning point. This is what we must understand and face with struggle methods and an appropriate struggle action program. The first step on this road is making earnest efforts to lift the unjust blockade on Iraq, since this will create suitable conditions for giving a new qualitative strength to the weak Arab body and strengthen the steadfastness of the masses and their resistance to capitulation and normalization with the Zionists by all effective means.

Learning the lessons of the immortal Mother of Battles under the leadership of the brave warrior Saddam Husayn and mobilizing the forces of the nation and enhancing their struggle is the guarantee for ending the Zionist plan, regardless of the means of support and continuity provided by the forces of evil, hegemony, and tyranny, or the attempts at changing images and achieving economic merger.

Arabism is stronger and more viable, because this is the nation of immortality, the messages, human giving, and faith in principles and high ideals.

Columnist Describes Rabin Slaying as God's Will

JN2011191695 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 12 Nov 95 p 3

["Windows" column by Diya' Hasan: "Murderers Are Killed, Even If It Takes Awhile"]

[FBIS Translated Text] We all believe that God's will is supreme and that His just punishment is bound to be carried out sooner or later, whether the tyrants like it or not. Here is God Almighty's just punishment being meted out and the murderer, Rabin, falls victim of his own evil doings and is killed at the hand of a Zionist from his own dirty race. For it was Rabin who shed Arab blood in Holy Jerusalem, the Golan, Sinai, and southern Lebanon. He was also the one who ordered the killing of the Palestinian intifadah men. Moreover, he was the one who came up with the idea of crushing the bones of the Palestinians youths resisting the occupation.

It is the just punishment which is prophesied in the Holy Book: "Tell the murderer that he shall meet his death." The punishment took place at the ordained time, and its lessons are there for those who want to learn. The punishment will neither be canceled, nor will its purposes be distorted by the alignment of those who erroneously thought that their place was with the mourners. They are all the enemies of God, Islam, and Arabdom, and outside the ranks of the faithful. Murderers are killed, even if it takes awhile.

National Figures Call For Free Expression, Open Media

JN2011195095 Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 8 Oct 95 p 3

[Published in the weekly supplement "AL-'UBUR']

[FBIS Translated Text] In interviews during which nothing was recorded on paper or a recording machine and the interviewees had no knowledge that their statements would be published, the AL-'UBUR editor tried to obtain the opinions of several Iraqi national personalities and university professors on issues which they are known to have been openly articulate on. These issues are on the media, freedom of opinion and the other opinion, and economic and social matters.

Dr. Hasan al-Jaf, a well-known Kurdish and national personality, says: We are all sons of this homeland who believe in its unity and work for its progress and services. We also believe that Saddam Husayn is the symbol and shelter for all Iraqis. What is required is for us to speak the truth and hide nothing dealing with any aspect of life, and inform the leadership of everything that concerns us in our lives. He also says:

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We benefit from other people's opinion even if it differs from our own. So should we not express our opinion on everything and discuss matters openly in order to reach useful convictions which will serve the people and the homeland? There is no reason why our opinions should not also be announced in the media.

Dr. Yusuf Hamdan, a national figure who is known for his Marxist leanings, says: The arena is open for everyone to express their opinions and thoughts and listen to other people's opinions on them in this phase. There should be a wide scope for the interaction of all opinions through all channels. There is nothing better than a quiet and objective dialogue, especially if the aim is a noble and sublime one, such as serving the homeland and the people.

Hamdan adds: The true patriot is the one who expresses his opinions and convictions to the state, regardless of whether they are right or wrong. It is up to the state to make its own assessments. The important thing is that we should express opinions in the hopes that they would be useful.

Dr, Majid 'Abd-al-Rida, a national figure who is known for his Marxist leanings, says he feels uncomfortable sometimes when information and press officials are annoyed by the remarks and opinions that must be published. He adds: The new constitutional phase, which is also the phase of political pluralism, calls for more flexibility toward other people's opinions.

Dr. Muhammad Muzaffar al-Adhami, member of the National Assembly, says: Heated discussions take place, and conflicting opinions and ideas are voiced under the dome of the National Assembly, where every member expresses his opinion freely. Yet, nobody knows about that. Why? It is because the media do not shed any light on these discussions, opinions, and ideas. This is also why citizens accuse us of failing in our duty to represent them, since our discussions, opinions, and ideas do not reach them because of this. What is needed is for the various media to shed light on what goes on inside the National Assembly, so the citizens will know what the members are doing and how they are planning to serve them.

Talabani Comments on Tour, U.S. Plan for Kurdistan

NC1711163495 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1500 GMT 17 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Brother Jalal Talabani, secretary general of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK], held an important news conference yesterday, Thursday, which was attended by correspondents from the television stations of Irbil, al-Sulaymaniyah, and Kuysanjaq. Talabani shed light on current events and spoke about the outcome of his successful tour of Syria, Turkey, Britain, and the Islamic Republic of Iran during which he met with senior officials in these countries. In Syria, he met President Hafiz al-Asad and a number of senior officials, including Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam; 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the Arab Ba'th Socialist Party; and Syrian People's Assembly Speaker 'Abd-al-Qadir Qaddurah, in addition to former Yemeni President 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, and a number of leaders of national parties in Syria.

He spoke about his visit to Turkey during which he met with senior Turkish officials and briefed them on the sensitive situation in the region in general and in Iraq's Kurdistan in particular.

Talabani briefed television correspondents on the PUK views on the escape of Husayn Kamil, which he said was a strong blow to Saddam Husayn's regime.

The PUK secretary general also spoke about the Jordanian plan to resolve the problem.

Talabani praised the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq [SAIRI] and its chairman His Eminence Ayatollah Muhammad Baqir al-Hakim. After noting the depth of ties between the PUK and SAIRI, he denied the fabricated lies about the presence of SAIRI's Badr forces in Iraq's Kurdistan.

The PUK secretary general called on the party's media organizations to show more serious interest in the affairs of Kurdish exiles who have suffered from ethnic and sectarian oppression under the 'Aflaqite Ba'th regime.

Concluding his news conference, Talabani said that the PUK accepts the U.S. plan except for the clause on protection of the security of the Turkish borders, stressing that the Turks have to defend their borders from within their territories without resorting to violence.

PUK on Talabani's Meeting With U.S. Mediator

NC1811164995 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1500 GMT 18 Nov 95

[Statement by PUK "official spokesman" on 18 November; place not given—read by announcer]

[FBIS Translated Text] In a completely frank atmosphere, Jalal Talabani, secretary general of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK] met at his official residence in Irbil with Robert Deutsch, the U.S. sponsor of the peace talks in Kurdistan on the evening of 17 November.

The two discussed the positive developments in the U.S. mediation aimed at establishing peace in the

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region. It is hoped that the Kurdistan people will enjoy security and tranquility and that the efforts of the Kurdistan people and their friends will focus on rebuilding the Kurdistani economy, reconstructing the region, and safeguarding the great gains threatened by the regrettable war. Deutsch prized Talabani's recent message on the PUK's positive response to the U.S. peace proposals. Deutsch said the PUK, which has put forward an integral plan to end the dispute and establish peace, will be a forerunner in pushing the peace process forward. In addition, it will marshal the Kurdish ranks, and unify the Iraqi opposition in its struggle to overthrow the dictatorship and build a unified and democratic Iraq. The people of Kurdistan will enjoy federalism and a regional government, and will achieve freedom, social justice, and stability throughout Iraq.

Talabani, Turkish Delegation Discuss Cooperation

NC1711165695 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1500 GMT 17 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Brother Jalal Talabani, secretary general of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK], received in his Irbil office yesterday morning a high-level delegation from the Turkish Government led by Ambassador Osman Kortuk, director general of the Middle East department in the foreign ministry. The Turkish delegation included Ecevit Tazhan, ambassador at the Foreign Ministry and head of the Turkish delegation to the peace talks in Dublin; Muhammaed Aymur, deputy director of Turkish security; Colonel Tarik, commander of Turkish forces in Diyarbakir; and a number of officials from the foreign and defense ministries.

The meeting was attended on PUK's behalf by Kusrat Rasul 'Ali, prime minister of the Kurdish region's government, and members of the PUK's leadership committee Muhammad Tawfiq Rahim, 'Adil Murad, Sa'di Ahmad Pira, and [word indistinct] al-Huwayzi.

Talabani spoke very frank and clear during the meeting about the history of the relations between the two sides. He praised the stands of late Turkish President Turgut Ozal who sought to strengthen relations between Turkey and the Kurdish people tc the benefit of the region's inhabitants. He also criticized the negative phenomena that mar bilateral ties from time to time. He called on the Turkish delegation to understand the aspects of the Kurdish issue and to regard it as the just and legitimate cause of a people which is fragmented and oppressed by the governments of the region and as a people struggling for its just and legitimate national rights.

On his part, head of the Turkish delegation Osman Korturk expressed his country's hope of consolidating permanent peace in Kurdistan and of resolving the differences between the PUK and the Kurdistan Democratic Party through peaceful means. He also expressed the Turkish Government's readiness to extend technical aid to the Kurdish region government to develop local industries, reconstruction, and agriculture. The region which is suffering from real problems as a result of the dual economic blockade imposed on the Kurdish region.

Korturk stressed his country's support for facilitating trade between Turkey and the region of Kurdistan to benefit both sides and to activate economic activities in the region.

At the meeting's conclusion, the two sides agreed that the PUK will form a high-level delegation which will visit Turkey in response to an official invitation from the Turkish Government. This will allow a continuation of the political and economic talks and consultations, strengthen ties, and consolidate what was agreed on during the meeting.

The Turkish delegation, which came to restore relations between the two sides, left Kurdistan yesterday afternoon aboard a helicopter that took it from Irbil to Turkey.

KDP, U.S. Delegation Discuss Final Draft of Peace Plan

JN1811200495 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan in Arabic 1800 GMT 18 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The U.S. delegation supervising negotiations between the Kurdistan Democratic Party [KDP] and the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK] held a final session of talks with our party's delegation on Friday, 17 November. The discussion dealt with the final draft peace plan.

The U.S. delegation which arrived in Salah al-Din on 12 November is headed by Robert Deutsch, head of the north Gulf desk at the U.S. State Department [title as heard], and comprises Steven Grumman from the U.S. National Security Council, (Suzannah McCormick), political adviser at Incirlik base, and (Richard Mickey), political advisor at the U.S. Embassy in Ankara.

The U.S. delegation held separate intensive meetings with each of the two parties over the past days. Brother Mas'ud Barzani, head of our party, attended some of the meetings with the U.S. delegation during which he submitted positive solutions to some of the intricate points of the peace plan, which brought it closer to its final formulation.

Our party's delegation reiterated commitment to the cease-fire, to the agreements reached, and to the peace process. The U.S. delegation said that the PUK had also reiterated the same commitment.

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The U.S. delegation expressed thanks and said it appreciates the positive approach and the flexibility demonstrated by our party delegation, specifically by the head of the party.

The U.S. delegation left Salah-al-Din for home on 18 November and will issue a statement on the positive results of its visit to Kurdistan in the next few days.

KDP Criticizes Televised Interview of Talabani

JN1811201395 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan in Arabic 1800 GMT 18 Nov 95

[Statement by a press spokesman for the Central Bureau of Culture and Information in the KDP; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Iraqi Kurdistan region is witnessing intensive meetings these days by the U.S. negotiating delegation, led by Robert Deutch, who has been a guest of the region for several days. The U.S. delegation is trying to achieve a peace agreement and end the crisis.

The two main parties to the talks, the KDP [Kurdistan Democratic Party] and the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK] were supposed to contribute to the success of these peace efforts and not do anything that would disturb the atmosphere on any level, including the information level. However, Jalal Talabani, PUK secretary general, appeared Thursday, 16 November, in a television interview. His remarks opened wounds, and he made baseless fabrications against the KDP and its leadership. This generated negative reactions by the KDP base and friends, and all the citizens. This conduct also raised questions about the reason for such behavior at this particular time.

Out of its eagerness to maintain an atmosphere conducive to the continuation of peace efforts and dialogue, and to render the mediation of friends a success, the KDP has chosen to keep quiet and remain patient and not to reply to Talabani, even if a clarification is warranted.

We hope that the mediation efforts will succeed, since this would achieve peace, return legitimacy and the rule of law, and solve everyday problems faced by the citizens.

Issued on 17 November 1995

KDP, UK Foreign Office Delegation Hold Talks

JN1811202095 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan in Arabic 1800 GMT 18 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Mas'ud Barzani, head of our party, the Kurdistan Democratic Party ([KDP], met on Friday evening, 17 November, with a UK Foreign Office delegation visiting Iraqi Kurdistan. (Ushiyar Zibari), official in charge of the KDP's foreign relations, attended the meeting. The delegation comprises (M Craig), assistant deputy head of the Middle East Department in the UK Foreign Office; Robert Wilson, from the Foreign Office's Studies and Research Section; and (Francis Vicker) from the British Embassy in Ankara.

The delegation offered their condolences to Barzani's family on the death of the mother of Nashirvan Barzani.

Barzani and the UK delegation members exchanged views on the peace process, the domestic and regional state of affairs, and bilateral relations.

Barzani hosted a dinner in honor of the visiting delegation.

The UK delegation arrived in Iraqi Kurdistan on 13 November on an independent and separate visit from that of the U.S. delegation that supervised the peace negotiations. The UK delegation resided in Salah-al-Din during its visit.

On Tuesday, 14 November, the UK delegation held talks with the KDP Political Bureau. The meeting was attended by Sami 'Abd-al- Rahman, Jawhar Namiq, (Ushiyar Zibari), and Muhsin Zaki.

Paper: U.S. Actions in North Aim To Encourage Chaos

JN1811092895 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0850 GMT 18 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 18 Nov (INA)—The newspaper AL-'IRAQ stressed that the Americans' involvement in disgraceful and hostile actions in the Kurdistan region is aimed at encouraging the state of chaos created by the warring groups.

Commenting on the arrival of a U.S. delegation in the Kurdistan Autonomous Region, the paper says that the United States has seriously harmed our Kurdish people, who are killing each other with U.S. weapons. The U.S. interference, the paper says, has created an abnormal situation in the region since the 30-state aggression against Iraq.

The paper urged the population of Iraqi Kurdistan to expose the blatant U.S. interference in Iraq's domestic affairs and to eliminate the agents, who are the enemies of freedom and law. The paper stresses that stability and peace in northern Iraq is only possible through the return of the region to the homeland.

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Kurdish Radio Welcomes U.S., Iranian Peace Initiatives

NC2011171495 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1500 GMT 20 Nov 95

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Achieving peace in Iraq's Kurdistan and consolidating security and stability in it will effectively help spare the peoples of the region a number of problems and crises which could be exacerbated further if tension continues in Iraq's Kurdistan. The achievement of peace in Kurdistan serves the Kurdish people and its democratic experience. It is also beneficial to all the international and regional parties that want to serve the cause of peace and peaceful coexistence between the region's countries and peoples.

Regardless of what is being said about the countries mediating between the warring parties in Kurdistan being motivated by their interests in the region, we welcome all the international and regional parties that intend to try to normalize the situation in Kurdistan. In this context, the new U.S. initiative intended to achieve peace in Kurdistan is another positive step toward finding the required solutions for the differences between the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK] and the Kurdistan Democratic Party [KDP] and restoring peace to Kurdistan.

We ought to note here the effective and positive role played by the Islamic Republic of Iran and its mediation between the two warring parties in Iraq's Kurdistan; it achieved concrete progress in the Tehran talks held between 5 and 9 October.

The plain truth, which does not need any explanation, is this. Our region needs peace. Let us turn the process of achieving peace into a joint task to which all the countries of the region and the world can contribute. We welcome all peace initiatives, whether international or regional, as long as they aim to achieve peace in Kurdistan.

It remains to say that the Kurdish parties, including the PUK and the KDP, must realize that achievement of peace is the only guarantee for the success of the democratic process. The abhorrent infighting which has squandered the two warring parties' resources — which should have been used to serve the Kurdish people — threatens to destroy the democratic experience and undermine the historic gains achieved under it.

Achievement of peace in Kurdistan shortens the road to the removal of the dictatorial regime in Iraq. Let us all work to achieve this noble goal.

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Peres Comments on Future of Syrian Negotiations

TA2011124795 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1100 GMT 20 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Acting Prime Minister Shim'on Peres dismisses as utter nonsense the claims made by right-wing movements recently alleging that the government and the Shin Bet have taken steps to smear them. Peres totally rejected reports that the Shin Bet was behind EYAL [Irgun Yehudi Lohem].

On another issue, Peres, who arrived in Brussels this afternoon, said that he will draft a detailed proposal regarding the negotiations with Syria in the coming days and will present it to U.S. President Bill Clinton next month. Peres added that he does not believe now is the right time for him to meet Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'. Our political correspondent Udi Segal reports from Brussels:

[Begin recording] [Segal] Acting Prime Minister Shim'on Peres landed in Brussels several minutes ago in order to sign the new trade agreement between Israel and the EC. During the flight, Peres addressed the negotiations with Syria. We do not seek a skimpy peace, he said, referring to the detailed proposal on the negotiations that he will bring to U.S. President Bill Clinton. We need to clarify what kind of peace we are seeking and not just what we are prepared to give the Syrians in exchange.

[Peres] We need to clarify thoroughly not only what is demanded of us but also what we are doing in exchange. Both aspects must be thoroughly clarified and exhausted. We will see. Perhaps there are also additions that can be made, or new ideas.

[Segal] Do you know what price Israel will be asked to pay in this still unclear exchange?

[Peres] I do not know yet but I can imagine.

[Segal] Peres can imagine the price, which he most probably knows. He talks about the need to present creative ideas in the negotiations, and expresses the assessment that al-Asad has reached a strategic decision to make peace with Israel. There are still no changes in the Syrian positions, Peres said, there has only been a change in the content of the media broadcasts coming from Damascus. Peres does not expect to hold a meeting with Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' at the Barcelona conference next week. I do not think it is the right thing to do now, Peres said.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1105 GMT on 20 November carries a similar report on Peres' statements. In a recorded passage, Peres says: "There is a great deal of openness and room for creative ideas. This is normally the case in a peace process because every familiar position is a dead letter which arouses opposition, skepticism, and disdain. Part of the art of negotiations is in constantly coming up with what initially appear to be impossible alternatives." Peres goes on to say: "In general, I will honor all the commitments made by Yitzhaq Rabin, the late prime minister and defense minister, with regard to both issues and people. The fact that the prime minister was assassinated is not a reason to kill his commitments."]

As for the spate of recent reports about the Shin Bet, Peres told us that all the allegations that the Shin Bet was behind the extreme right-wing EYAL movement were unfounded and baseless. Peres also addressed claims that the government manipulated the Shin Bet through Avishay Raviv in order to smear the right-wing groups. Peres described these reports as utter nonsense.

[In a recorded passage on Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1105 GMT on 20 November, Peres says: "As an organization, the Shin Bet plays a vital role in Israel's defense against external and domestic terrorism. Naturally, no organization is totally infallible. If mistakes were made, we must first examine what they are and who is to blame. This, however, must be done in a very responsible fashion, and that is why a highly respected commission of inquiry was set up in order to reach the appropriate conclusions. I suggest that people refrain from passing hasty, unprofessional judgment. There is certainly no justification for undermining the Shin Bet, which is a highly important organization, in such a manner." Peres goes on to note: "I have asked the cabinet ministers to permit the commission of inquiry to do its job without any input from them. There is no need for that. Ministers are not judges who have an independent authority to interrogate, examine, and draw conclusions."]

In a short while, Peres will sign the new trade agreement with the EC. This is an excellent agreement which will give the Israeli economy a qualitative boost and enable it to compete in Europe. This is definitely a wonderful development, Peres said. [end recording]

Acting Prime Minister Shim'on Peres also said that he intended to ask U.S. President Bill Clinton to release Israeli spy Jonathan Pollard, seeing as the latter has already completed 10 years of his sentence and is now eligible for a pardon. Peres also said that he intended to hold a national referendum on the issue of withdrawal on the Golan Heights, as promised by late Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin.

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Says Talks Could Resume in Barcelona

LD2111121195 Madrid RNE-1 Radio Network in Spanish 0700 GMT 21 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Euro-Mediterranean conference to be held next week in Barcelona could become the starting point for a resumption of talks between Israel and Syria, which have been interrupted for months. This is what acting Prime Minister Shim'on Peres announced yesterday in Brussels, where he signed the agreement of association with the EU. Nacho Hernandez, our correspondent in Brussels, reports:

[Hernandez] The Barcelona conference has become an important meeting for the Middle East peace process. We want to sign peace agreements with Syria and Lebanon, Israeli Prime Minister Shim'on Peres said, and I think, he added, that all of us want to achieve this. These statements were made at the end of the ceremony marking the signing of the agreement of association with the EU. According to Spanish Foreign Minister Javier Solana, during the Euro- Mediterranean conference we will speak of our common future. Israel awaits the results of this meeting and wants Europe to continue participating in the Middle East's development. According to Peres something akin to the EU has to be created in the region. Israel reaffirms its commitment to peace. It is a moral option.

[Begin Peres recording, in English] When it comes to Barcelona we shall be ready to meet with whomever the Syrians would like us to meet. [end recording]

[Hernandez] When we get to Barcelona, Peres said, we are ready to meet with whomever the Syrians want. I hope that it will be an opportunity and that it will not be missed.

Beilin Demands Unconditional Talks With Syria

TA1911072595 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 19 Nov 95

[Telephone interview with Economy and Planning Minister Yosi Beilin by Arye Golan on 19 November; place not given — live or recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Golan] Good morning, Minister Beilin.

[Beilin] Good morning.

[Golan] Reports claim Syria has not waived its demand for a full Israeli withdrawal from the Golan. Has Israel waived its demand for early warning stations on the Golan as condition for such withdrawal?

[Beilin] Negotiations with preconditions are impossible. Syria must not think we will announce acceptance of all its demands before the negotiations even start, just as we do not expect them to accept our demands before real negotiations start. So far, there have been no real negotiations. If today the Syrians are willing to review their attitude, to hold either direct negotiations on a senior level — that would be best — or talks through the Americans, I think they should remember that negotiations are all about negotiating.

[Golan] Are we no longer insisting on officers talks, which has been the only track so far?

[Beilin] We insist that the Syrians stand by what they promised. I do not think procedural matters are the main thing. The main issue for us is security arrangements and the territory from which we will be willing to withdraw, if appropriate security arrangements are guaranteed. All this can be discussed only if we sit down together in an orderly fashion, and not in statements exchanged through the media or in public speeches in Syria or elsewhere.

[Golan] What about the early warning stations?

[Beilin] Again, I cannot address the issue, because it is part of the negotiations on security arrangements. For us it is naturally the main thing. For us, Golan means security, period. If we agree on appropriate security arrangements, the depth of withdrawal can be discussed, too. That was what the late Yitzhaq Rabin said about the depth of withdrawal equaling the depth of peace. Personally, I feel that these irregular negotiations with the Syrians are a sign the Syrians have not made a strategic decision to march to peace and normalization with Israel. Judging by reports in recent days, it is possible that a change has taken place, and that is worth looking into.

[Golan] Will that be really looked into at a meeting between Faruq al-Shar' and Shim'on Peres at the Barcelona Conference, as we have heard? Is there a chance for such a meeting, which Syria has so far refused to hold?

[Beilin] It is true that Syria has been adamantly opposed to this kind of bilateral meeting. I do not know that a meeting to which you referred is in the offing. I will be very surprised — pleasantly so — if it does take place.

[Golan] Will it convince you that Syria has embraced the course of peace?

[Beilin] It will undoubtedly convince me that a change has occurred. [passage omitted]

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Beilin, 'Source' on Changing Format of Syria Talks

TA2111074195 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 21 Nov 95

[Telephone interview with Economy and Planning Minister Yosi Beilin by correspondent Yoram Ronen; place not given — live]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Ronen] Good morning Minister Beilin. You asked us to avoid questions on portfolio distribution in the future government, so we will talk about its plans. Peres is speaking of new ideas for promoting the negotiations with Syria, of a new format for talks. Can you explain what exactly he is talking about?

[Beilin] I do not believe that there has been any change of policy regarding the talks with Syria, not even after we heard Dennis Ross two days ago here. We continue along the same path, with the same substantive stand. As for procedures, the procedural issue has never been a key issue for us. It was a central issue for the Syrians who would not upgrade the level of talks with us. If the Syrians were willing to upgrade that level to a political one, we would gladly welcome this.

[Ronen] Do you know what the new format of talks that Peres has mentioned is?

[Beilin] I do not believe he is referring to a specific new format. We have always said, and even more so today, that if we want to attain a real breakthrough in the negotiations with Syria — and we do not have much time; we have only a few months — we must hold political talks on the political level. If we maintain the current procedure for talks whereby a U.S. envoy arrives in the region every two to three months and shuttles between Damascus and Jerusalem, or if the talks remain on the ambassadorial level — which has certainly added to the negotiations but failed to attain a breakthrough — there will be no breakthrough and there will be no peace with Syria in the current government's term. [passage omitted]

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0500 GMT on 21 November adds: "Israel is trying to forge a new path for the negotiations with Syria. This is reported by our political correspondent Shlomo Raz, citing a senior political source in Jerusalem. The source said that if the two countries really want peace, they must realize that the freeze in the talks is due to the wrong format in which the negotiations are being held and that an alternative path must be found. The source added that it appears that Shim'on Peres will not meet the Syrian foreign minister in Barcelona. In any event, Israel will not initiate such a meeting, but if the Syrians initiate it, Israel will respond favorably."]

'Understanding' Reached on Flights to Qatar

NC2011091595 Paris AFP in English 0910 GMT 20 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Jerusalem, Nov 20 (AFP)— Israel and Qatar have agreed in principle on an unprecedented deal for the first flights between the Jewish state and a Gulf Arab country, an official said Monday [20 November].

The director of civil aviation Menahem Sharon told AFP that the two countries had reached an "understanding" in talks in Qatar for two weekly round-trip charter flights between Doha and Tel Aviv in the coming weeks. But it had not yet been signed because of outstanding "technical problems." "We decided two things, to establish some beginnings of aviation links and basic rights such as using our airports for emergencies and for humanitarian reasons," he said. "Then we also decided on two weekly flights from Doha to Tel Aviv for pilgrims wanting to visit the holy land."

State radio said Monday that Saudi Arabia had agreed to allow Qatari planes heading for Tel Aviv to cross its air space. Israel is hoping its flights will win a similar authorisation in the future. Qatar also has to find a third country to represent its interests in Israel as the two countries do not have diplomatic relations.

Sharon said the foreign and interior ministries were trying to work out problems surrounding passports and visas for passengers from the Gulf Arab countries with which Israel has no ties. "The traffic will be from the Gulf area to the holy land, but we have to come to some arrangement about entering and passports and visas." But he said he could not give "a commitment" when the flights would start before the problems were solved. Most of the passengers would be pilgrims, he said, but did not rule out the arrival of others such as businessmen.

Sharon held two days of talks in Doha with Qatari aviation officials and representatives from their two national carriers El Al and Qatar Air were also present at the talks. Israel is also hoping that its aviation links will develop as the "relationship between the two countries develops," Sharon added.

Israel is negotiating with Qatar to open a commercial representation office in Doha and last month signed a letter of intent with the US company Enron to buy Qatari gas. Oman has also taken steps to normalize ties with Israel, unlike the four other Gulf Arab states.

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Peres Receives Saudi Minister's Condolences

TA1711143295 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 17 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Saudi foreign minister has sent Acting Prime Minister Shim'on Peres and Le'a Rabin his condolences on the assassination of Prime Minister Rabin. The Saudi minister relayed this message through an Anti-Defamation League delegation that visited Saudi Arabia and is now in Israel.

Members of the delegation met with Shim'on Peres this afternoon. Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz notes that the delegates pointed out that Saudi Arabia takes a dim view of the warming ties between Qatar and Israel, because of the rivalry between the two Gulf states.

The acting prime minister said in his talk with the Anti-Defamation League visitors that he is acting to establish an Israel-diaspora liaison center.

'Terrorist' Killed by IDF on Jordanian Border

TA2111091895 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0847 GMT 21 Nov 95

[Report by Daniyel Semrik]

[FBIS Translated Text] A terrorist armed with a Kalashnikov rifle was killed about an hour ago by an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldier's fire on the Israeli-Jordanian border, near the settlement of Neve Ur. The IDF unit discovered the terrorist during searches it conducted in the wake of the shooting incident earlier this morning in which an IDF soldier was injured by shots fired from Jordan.

It is not yet clear whether the killed terrorist was the man who had fired earlier, but it has been reported that slugs found after the earlier shooting incident were fired from a Kalashnikov rifle. The IDF is not yet certain that the man was alone, and searches are continuing in the area. There could be another person involved, but this is not yet clear.

Further on Shooting Incident

TA2111063095 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 21 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] There was a firing incident near Gesher. Our correspondent in the north Ilan Ro'e is on the phone with the details. What happened exactly?

[Ro'e] Early this morning, an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] patrol came under fire near Kibbutz Gesher in the Bet She'an Valley. The fire came from Jordanian territory. The border fence seemed intact, and therefore no pursuit was undertaken. An IDF soldier was wounded lightly in the leg and taken to a hospital.

IDF and police forces rushed to the site, and Route 90, between Bet She'an and Menahemya, was closed and remains closed to traffic. Searches are under way to ascertain whether the fence was penetrated in other locations.

As far as we know, the commander of the Israeli troops has asked for a meeting with the Jordanian commander of the corresponding region across the border. The information we have indicates that the shooter will be found, but there is no sign of this so far. The contacts with the Jordanians continue, and we will update you as soon as we have more information.

IDF Restricts Settler's Movement

TA2011114295 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 20 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The commander of the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] Central Command has issued a restriction order against David Shir'el, a resident of Tall al-Rumaythah in Hebron. The order prohibits Shir'el from going outside his neighborhood, with the exception of Qiryat Arba' during daylight hours. The order will be in force for three months. Our correspondent Gil Litman reports that settlers in Hebron claim that Shir'el is not involved in any political activity.

In the Bethlehem area, two local residents in a Peugeot attempted to run a police vehicle taking Miryam Levinger [wife of radical right-wing Rabbi Moshe Levinger] off the road. Levinger was being taken to court in accordance with a court summons. One of the policemen shot at the tires of the Peugeot and forced it to stop. The driver fled but his passenger was detained for questioning. The policeman and Mrs. Levinger were not hurt. This was reported by our correspondents Aviv Bushinsky and Gil Litman.

U.S. 'Pressure' Leads to Checkpoint Improvements

TA1911121995 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 19 Nov 95 p A5

[Report by Ori Nir]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Following written solicitation by the U.S. Administration, Israel has made several changes and improvements at the crossing points between Israel and Gaza, and several other improvements will be soon introduced on the orders of Acting Prime Minister Shim'on Peres. The changes include the transfer of the managing responsibility from the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] to the Civil Administration; a possibility of granting permanent crossing permits to major

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Palestinian merchants (status parallel to that of VIP's); laxer regulations governing the crossing of people and goods between the West Bank and the Gaza Strip; and laxer regulations on Palestinian workers' exit to jobs in Israel.

The improved regulations will also apply to new crossing points that are to be built along the Green Line between the autonomous West Bank areas and the State of Israel. Some 11 to 13 such checkpoints are planned. In Gaza, one major checkpoint operates at Erez and two smaller ones at Nahal 'Oz and Qarni.

Most improvements were introduced in the course of the past weeks in the wake of American pressure. The administration has been applying moderate pressure on Israel in this matter for a long time, although it tried at the same time not to intervene in Israel's security considerations. "We are not addressing security matters, but rather dealing with the complete closure Israel has imposed and the resulting difficulties for the Palestinian economy," said a senior U.S. diplomatic source. The source said that less than a month ago, when U.S. Commerce Secretary Ron Brown visited Israel, he raised the acute problem with Yitzhaq Rabin and Shim'on Peres.

Similar charges were raised again at the beginning of last week — this time in greater detail and with suggestions for solving problems — in an uncharacteristic memo sent by the U.S. Embassy in Tel Aviv to the relevant Israeli authorities. The memo presented a list of problems and complaints which had been brought to the attention of the U.S. Embassy in Tel Aviv and Consulate in Jerusalem, and presented several ideas for solutions. [passage omitted]

Defense establishment sources said that, following the receipt of the American memo, several meetings were convened to discuss the checkpoints, one of them in Peres' office at the end of last week. [passage omitted]

Before the changes were made, two army officers were assigned to the coordination and liaison unit at Erez. They are in charge of facilitating the exit and entry of international elements through the checkpoint. [passage omitted]

It has been further learned that Israel has agreed to include a Palestinian liaison officer in the team working on the Israeli side of the checkpoints. He will assist in coordination and liaison.

Right Wing Demands Check Into EYAL Leader

TA2011170295 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 20 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Five right-wing movements have demanded that the state commission of inquiry looking into the circumstances of Rabin's assassination and check whether the Shin Bet acted against the right-wing camp on behalf of the government.

Our correspondent Gil Litman reports that the right-wing movements, including Women in Green and Zo Artzenu [This Is Our Land], called a news conference in which they presented a series of provocations allegedly initiated by EYAL [Irgun Yehudi Lohem] leader Avishay Raviv. They claimed that Raviv operated in the service of the Shin Bet and that his actions were designed to smear the right wing and discredit it in the eyes of the public.

'Amir Remanded in Custody; 8th Suspect Held

TA2011172095 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1100 GMT 20 Nov 95

[Report by Adam Shuv and Ya'el Sternhal — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Shuv] [passage omitted] The Israel Police representative contemptuously read out the charges against Yig'al 'Amir — murder, attempted murder, possession and use of a firearm — and asked that the court extend 'Amir's detention for 13 more days. Justice Dan Arbel asked 'Amir: Do you have an attorney? I do not want and do not need one, 'Amir yelled at the judge. At the end of the court hearing, 'Amir's detention was extended by 11 days.

[Sternhal] The police and Shin Bet have seven suspects in custody in connection with the Rabin assassination. A new name was added to the list yesterday: a 24-year-old student of — predictably — Bar-Ilan University. Police sources say that the prime suspects from the organization are in custody. As far as is known at the moment, the latter, a resident of Moshav Bet Gamli'el in central Israel, belongs to the second circle of the organization. Namely, he is believed to be a social acquaintance of Yig'al 'Amir, and allegedly knew of his intention to commit a murder. [passage omitted]

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1100 GMT on 20 November adds: "The Samaria and Judaea District Police this morning detained Barukh Marzel, a leader of the Kakh Movement, on suspicion that he disobeyed a restriction order issued against him and left his house in Tall al-Rumaythah. Our correspondent Gil Litman reports that, seizing the occasion, Marzel was presented with a new restriction order from the commander of the Central Command."]

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Two Suspects in Rabin Murder Freed

TA2111073995 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0700 GMT 21 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Israel Police are releasing Ohad Skurnik and Mikha'el Epstein. They were detained after Prime Minister Rabin was assassinated on the suspicion that they belonged to the Yig'al 'Amir ring. Our legal affairs correspondent 'Anat Peleg reports that the two are being released upon the conclusion of their questioning.

The police will ask the Petah Tiqva Magistrates Court for the extension of the detention of Avshalom Weinberg, a Bar Ilan University student who lives in Moshav Bet Gamli'el and is suspected of being aware of Yig'al 'Amir's intention to assassinate Rabin.

University Claims Shin Bet Given Details About 'Amir

TA2011193195 Jerusalem Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 20 Nov 95

[Video report by Knesset correspondent Dov Gilhar]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Bar Ilan University has been handing the Shin Bet detailed information about Yig'al 'Amir and his friends for the past three years. The university's security officers gave the Shin Bet details about 'Amir's actions and even examples of the seditious material he printed, the Bar Ilan University president disclosed today in a meeting with the Knesset Education and Culture Committee chairman. Our Knesset correspondent Dov Gilhar has the details:

[Begin Gilhar recording] Until today Bar Ilan University has come under public fire. Today the management diverted the fire in the Shin Bet's direction. In a closed meeting with senior members of the Knesset Education and Culture Committee, the university president and his deputy revealed new information. For the last three years, the university's security officers passed information to the Shin Bet on Yig'al 'Amir and his friends on campus, but the information was apparently not put to use. Is this yet another Shin Bet fiasco? [passage omitted]

Bar Ilan University will hand over precise details about the information given to the Shin Bet on the assassin and his friends — which was not put to any use — to the full Knesset committee on 22 November. [end recording]

About two years ago, about the time that EYAL's [Irgun Yehudi Lohem] Avishay Raviv was recruited as an informer, the Shin Bet made a similar offer to two people close to the leaders of the Jewish settlers. Our correspondent Rina Matzliah reports that the two rejected the proposal claiming that there is no illegal activity in the Council of Jewish Settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip, with which they are associated.

Baraq on Investigation Into Hard-Line U.S. Jews

TA2111085395 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 21 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Interior Minister Ehud Baraq says investigations are under way against alleged Jewish extremists from the United States in an effort to prevent such people from entering Israel. Last week, Baraq stopped a potential American Jewish immigrant from coming in. Addressing the Knesset, the interior minister said the number of such investigations will be increased. David Ze'ev Reports:

[Begin Ze'ev recording] Interior Minister Ehud Baraq was responding to motions for the agenda on Jewish extremism in the United States. He told the Knesset plenum: I have requested that the police commissioner and the head of the General Security Service [GSS] pass on to the Interior Ministry details of additional cases; a reference to last week's sanctions against an American Jew.

Minister Baraq said both the police and the GSS know of more extremists wishing to come to Israel, though he did not elaborate. He said he will consider barring their entry once he receives that information. Baraq said each case should be considered individually, but there is no doubt, he told the Knesset, that we have to increase our awareness in light of the serious events and the atmosphere created as a result of the despicable murder of Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin.

The debate in the Knesset heated up as Knesset Member [MK] Sha'ul Gutman of the new Israeli Right faction maintained that the witch hunt is in full swing, and he handed out insults. Meretz MK Ran Kohen called Gutman a monster, but the words were said only from the podium. There was no heckling at all. In Knesset terms, that is a step up. [end recording]

Sharon on Likud Government Approach to Oslo 2

TA1711121295 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 17 Nov 95 p 2

[Report by David Makovsky and news agencies]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Likud MK [Knesset Member] Ari'el Sharon, who has been a leading vociferous opponent of the peace process with the Palestinians, signaled yesterday that a Likud government elected next year could accept at least the initial implementation of Oslo 2 if the PLO honored the deal as well.

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When asked by members of the Foreign Press Association yesterday on a tour of the territories whether the Likud could accept the current peace process or would try to roll it back, Sharon said: "Things that have been done already, I think it will be very, very hard to change... but many things have not been done yet. We are going to be in the middle of the process."

The remarks seem to be the first explicit, albeit qualified and grudging, expression by a senior Likud official that elements of Oslo 2 would not likely be reversed.

He suggested that at least in its incipient phase, it could be compatible with the Likud's peace plan. At the same time, Sharon indicated that the Likud would not go beyond leaving the Palestinians in autonomous cantons.

According to Oslo 2, Israel is to hand over six Arab cities to Palestinian rule by the year's end and leave parts of Hebron early next spring.

There would then be an additional three unspecified IDF [Israel Defense Forces] pullbacks over the next 18 months from more of the territories.

According to a journalist who participated in the meeting yesterday, Sharon also said that should the Palestinian Authority (PA) be unable to control terrorism and terrorists find refuge in those cities, then the PA would be warned.

If it failed to subsequently curb the violence, then the IDF would feel free to enter the cities and grab the terrorists itself. At the same time, he suggested that Israel would not seek to go after the PA Police, but rather would subsequently leave the city in question.

Sharon called on Peres, who yesterday launched formal efforts to form a government within a week, to consult the mainstream opposition on peace moves. "Not to form a national unity government, that's not practical — but to try to sit together and find a consensus," he said.

[Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew on 17 November publishes on page 6 a report by Menahem Rahat which says that both sides noted "the excellent atmosphere" in the meeting held yesterday between Labor's coalition negotiating team and a delegation of the Likud faction. Moving on to political issues, MK Moshe Qatzav argued that "although the government's policy 'is definitely legal,' one must bear in mind that it is backed by 61 MK's 'who do not represent a substantial majority.'" Qatzav went on to tell the Labor team: "After three years of such dramatic and intense moves in the political sphere, why don't you rest for 10 months and let the voters decide what they want. Until then, we could rally around the opposition to the establishment of a Palestinian state and the repartitioning of Jerusalem."]

Coalition Agreement Signed; Labor Continues Negotiations

TA2111113795 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 21 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A short while ago, the leaders of Labor, Meretz, and YI'UD [Independent and Democratic Israel] signed the coalition agreements in the prime minister's bureau in Jerusalem.

The agreements include addenda — an agreement between Labor and Meretz stating that passing religious laws requires an a priori agreement by all members of the coalition. Shim'on Peres added a letter to the agreement in which he states that Labor is committed to the status quo on religious matters and will work to observe it. Meretz presented the prime minister with a letter stating that it insists that religious laws be passed only if it agrees.

Our party affairs correspondent notes that these three letters made the signing ceremony possible after hours of deliberations and negotiations.

Minister Moshe Shahal is currently meeting Peres to hear about the cabinet post slated for him. Peres will present his cabinet before the Labor Central Committee this afternoon and before the Knesset tomorrow.

Our correspondent Yo'el Nir adds that Labor is continuing to negotiate with the National Religious Party, United Torah Jewry, and SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] on their support for the government from the outside in return for Labor's accepting their demands on religious issues.

The Likud faction has decided to abstain in the Knesset vote of confidence in the new government tomorrow. Faction chairman Moshe Qatzav told our correspondent that, although Likud strongly opposes the Peres government guidelines, Likud will not vote against it to show that political assassination will never change Israeli governments.

Peres To Keep Defense; Ramon in Cabinet

TA2111083695 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800 GMT 21 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Shim'on Peres has decided to keep the defense portfolio in his hands. Our correspondent Yaron Deqel reports that Hayim Ramon will receive the interior portfolio and will be a member of the inner cabinet and the political negotiating team. Moshe Shahal will keep the police

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affairs portfolio, which apparently will be expanded. Rabbi 'Amital is also expected to join the cabinet as minister without portfolio.

Hayim Ramon met Peres this morning and, after the meeting, said that Peres had made him an offer and that he had accepted it. The acting prime minister later met with Minister Yosi Sarid regarding the reports that Meretz wants to read the agreements with the religious parties before it signs the coalition agreement. Our party affairs correspondent reports that Sarid is currently consulting the other Meretz ministers.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0810 GMT on 21 November carries a live report by Yaron Deqel which adds that the signing of the coalition agreement is being delayed due to consultations with Meretz.]

Mr. Peres will present his cabinet to the Labor Central Committee this afternoon and ask for its approval. It is not yet clear whether Peres will also detail the distribution of portfolios.

Poll Finds Baraq Preferred Over Peres for Defense

TA1911123595 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 19 Nov 95 p 13

[Report by Menahem Rahat]

[FBIS Translated Text] The public, both right and left, prefers Ehud Baraq to Shim'on Peres as defense minister in the next government. This is the conclusion of a public opinion poll carried out by the Geocartographia Institute directed by Professor Avi Degani and Dr. Rina Degani, which had been commissioned by the Channel 2 Television news department.

In the Baraq-Peres contest for the Defense Ministry, Baraq received the support of 66.9 percent, while Peres had 26.5 percent. The poll further established that should Ehud Baraq and Hayim Ramon compete for the premiership, Baraq will garner the support of the right wing and of the "Torah Jewry" [not further specified], while Ramon would enjoy the support of the left wing and of SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim].

The poll found out that if a Baraq-Ramon race for the premiership were held now, Ramon would come out with a slight edge — 39.5 percent versus 37.6 percent for Baraq.

The poll was held on 16 November among a representative sample of 528 interviewees who represented the adult Jewish population of Israel.

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King Cables Mubarak on Embassy Bombing

JN1911145895 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 19 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] His Majesty King Husayn sent a cable to His excellency Muhammad Husni Mubarak, president of the Arab Republic of Egypt, in which he expressed on behalf of the people and government of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan the most heartfelt condolences over the victims of the terrorist action against the Egyptian Embassy in Islamabad, which resulted in several casualties.

Following is the text of the cable:

Your Excellency President Muhammad Husni Mubarak, president of the Arab Republic of Egypt, may God watch over him. Cairo.

Peace and God's mercy and blessings be upon you. We received with great pain and anger the news about the criminal and sinful bombing of the Egyptian Embassy in Islamabad, which resulted in several innocent victims.

While condemning this ugly terrorist action, which emphasizes anew the need to combat all forms of terrorism and extremism, I express to your excellency and to the fraternal Egyptian people in my name and on behalf of the people of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and its government the heartfelt condolences over the victims of this terrorist action. We pray Almighty God to have mercy on them, to grant you patience and speedy recovery to the injured, and to save you and your dear people any mishap. From God we come, and to him we return. Peace and God's mercy and blessings be upon you.

Your brother, Husayn

Paper Condemns Egyptian Embassy Explosion

JN2011093495 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 20 Nov 95 pp 1, 30

[Editorial: "Another Link in a Bloody Chain"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Yet another horrible crime has been committed in the Pakistani capital, Islamabad, against the Embassy of the Arab Republic of Egypt. Innocent civilians were killed, wounded, or terrified without committing a crime or knowing the reasons for that crime.

What is worse and far more serious is that this new terrorist action is another link in the chain of terrifying crimes committed all over the Islamic world, which has not known such condemned actions throughout its entire history.

We condemn all the crimes that are committed in the name of Islam—a religion that preaches peace and good deeds. We also condemn all the gory actions that aim at shaking the security of Arab and Islamic states. We believe that these actions seriously harm Islam and distort the image of Arabs and Muslims who are suffering more than others from such blind and bloody violence.

We stand by our brothers in Egypt just as we stood by our brothers in Saudi Arabia a week ago when a similar terrorist incident took place. We call for a coordinated Arab and Islamic action to combat such a widespread phenomenon, tighten the noose around its masterminds, and prevent its executive instruments from carrying out their hideous criminal goals.

Jordan, which takes a clear and firm stand in condemning and denouncing all terrorism regardless of its origin and identity, is well aware that eliminating this rampant terrorist phenomenon requires extreme firmness and courage in tracking down both the executors and planners of such operations. It also requires opening all possible doors for domestic dialogue, political participation, and responsible freedom of expression as the best means for venting grudges and containing any other possible manifestations of violence.

Iraqi Official's Body Transferred to Baghdad

JN1911210095 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 2000 GMT 19 Nov 95

[Announcer-read report over video from the "News at Ten" program]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The speaker of Iraq's National Assembly, Sa'di Mahdi Salih, died of cancer in Amman today at the age of 55. The late Salih was receiving treatment at the Husayn Medical Center before he passed away. His body was carried to Baghdad.

Parliament Speaker Sa'd Hayil al-Surur and Senate Deputy Speaker Zayd al-Rifa'i and other MP's [members of parliament] and officials were present at the medical center for a farewell ceremony before the coffin was carried to Iraq.

The Iraqi parliament speaker was born in Tikrit in 1940. He was chosen twice as speaker of Iraq's National Assembly.

Official Claims 700 Citizens Detained in Iraq

JN2011134695 Amman AL-ASWAQ in Arabic 20 Nov 95 p 1, 19

[FBIS Translated Text] A senior Jordanian official told AL-ASWAQ yesterday that Jordanian detainees in Israeli prisons will be released within the next few days.

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The Jordanian official also noted that contacts with the Iraqi Government on the Jordanian detainees in Iraq are still stumbling, and that 26 of them were returned to prison despite the fact that a presidential decree has been issued relieving them.

The official said: We are facing a new problem; namely, that the Iraqi Government began to deny the documented information we have regarding the number of the Jordanian detainees. The Iraqi Government insists that there are only 56 Jordanian detainees.

The Jordanian official stressed that the documented information shows that the number of detainees exceeds 700.

The official said that the issue of Jordanian students detained in the Philippines has improved greatly. The official said that only four Jordanians remain in prison in the Philippines and that talks are continuing with the Philippine Government to release them.

Prime Minister: 'Destructive Criticism' Not Tolerated

JN1911110295 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 19 Nov 95 pp 1, 7

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman (J.T.)—Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir Saturday [18 November] inaugurated the new buildings of the Jordan Press Foundation Company—which publishes Al-Ra'y and the Jordan Times—and the foundation's commercial press, and announced that the government was determined to create the best and most favourable climate for the work of Jordanian journalists.

"The government does not mind criticism or hearing the views of the opposition, but it can by no means tolerate any harm to the country and its achievements," said the prime minister at a meeting after the opening ceremony with Mahmud al-Kayid, chairman of the board of the Jordan Press Foundation, Foundation Director General Muhammad al-'Amad and journalists.

"The government is not happy with those people who import their principles from abroad. We are all partners in building this country and we all believe that reform is inevitable but we do not tolerate any destructive criticism," he said.

"The government will always support views and accept constructive criticism aimed at safeguarding national interests and achievements realised over the past four decades," he added.

"One has to be fair with his country and should admit that what has been achieved was like a miracle, given the meagre resources of a country that does not have petroleum or rivers but is proud of its skilled citizens and their capacity for development and construction," al-Sharif zayd said.

"Any denial of these achievements is tantamount to treason," said al-Sharif Zayd. "We would hold to account those people who do harm to the country and its achievements."

The prime minister, who earlier launched the operations of the new printing press, lauded the work of al-Ra'y newspaper for its excellent service to the public, describing it as a national institution dedicated to the service of the nation.

Mr. al-Kayid stressed in a brief address that the al-Ra'y staff would remain totally dedicated to serving their country and their leader, presenting objective printed matter to the readers and abiding by His Majesty King Husayn's directives.

The prime minister, who was accompanied by his deputies 'Abd-al- Ra'uf al-Rawabidah and Khalid al-Karaki as well as the speakers of Parliament and other officials including Amman Mayor Mamduh al- 'Abbadi, toured the new facility.

The printing press and the new building cost JD 5 million.

The new electronic equipment can print up to 64 pages in colour and produce 60,000 copies per hour.

Mr. al-Kayid presented to al-Sharif Zayd a coloured portrait of King Husayn on the occasion of the opening of the new facility which was held as part of the country's celebration of King Husayn's 60th birthday.

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Nasrallah, Vice President Khaddam Hold Talks

NC2011171995 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 16 Nov 95 p 3

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Hizballah Secretary General Hasan Nasrallah and his political assistant Hasan al-Khalil visited Damascus yesterday and met with Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam. [passage omitted]

Hizballah sources said Khaddam praised the Resistance's operations in southern Lebanon and its role in confronting the Israeli occupation there. The conferees "reviewed the overall situation in the region in light of the assassination of Yitzhaq Rabin. They agreed on the need to wait and see how matters will develop in light of Shim'on Peres' assumption of power and his ability to undertake new steps." [passage omitted]

Fadlallah Urges Progress on Economic Issues

MM2111123695 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 18 Nov 95 p 3

[Unattributed report: "Fadlallah: We Live in a State With No Self—Respect"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Beirut, AL-HAYAH — In yesterday's Friday sermon, the Scholar Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah asked: "Where is the solution to the economy, service, and infrastructure problem?", adding: "We live in a state with no self-respect, because it does not provide the citizens with job opportunities or the ability to spend, and does not have the capacity to collect taxes from them." He strongly criticized "some schools in West Beirut for expelling female students wearing a veil..., and we will take appropriate measures in this respect."

He added: "Thanks to former U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, we are still suffering the consequences of the civil war imposed on Lebanon through a U.S. plan to silence Palestinian guns. We are still suffering from the Jewish occupation of part of the Jabal 'Amil and West al-Biqa' territories. We are still enduring Zionist-U.S. aggression on the Lebanese coast, land, and airspace. They view the resistance as a terrorist organization, and behave as though Israel, the country's overlord, was the one having to defend its soldiers. We say: We must be aware of the U.S. position on all our issues and freedoms, and understand that those who confront it are the resistance fighters in Lebanon and Palestine."

He added that "Lebanon is at a standstill while politicians are keeping the people busy with comedies here and there. They kept the people busy with the extension [of President al-Hirawi's term] and said that present circumstances do not allow the presidency to be determined by elections. They kept the people busy with the issue of constitutional reform and said that the present circumstances are not right and the subject should be closed. They kept the people busy with the electoral law. They each gave their opinion and took turns to share success in the battle. And what next? They told them to freeze everything until February or March 1996, and then everything fell silent. We say to the Lebanese officials: If you believe that regional and international circumstances prevailing in the homeland warrant closing a file here and there, why then do you keep the people busy and cause unjustifiable turmoil? This means wasting time, and you want to keep the people busy with something that amounts to nothing."

He added that "the citizen does not need a leader in order to resurface a road, have his son admitted to a hospital or school, or secure a telephone line or a guarantee on his electricity account. We live in a state with no self-respect because it does not try to provide its people with job opportunities and the ability to spend, and does not have the capacity to collect taxes from them. We ask the opposition and the supporters to think about the economic issue in a scientific and objective manner. We want to find the solution to this problem. We are facing the Israeli occupation with all its power, and as Lebanese, we must stand united. Do not look upon the south as a Shiite region, or Beirut as a Sunni area, or Kasrawan as a Maronite area, or al-Jabal and al-Shuf as a Druze area. We live in the same country even though regions differ, and we are one people even if religions and sects differ. We say that Israel will leave Lebanon only by force and that negotiations will not remove the occupation because we do not possess the elements of power to impose conditions on the occupier. We say to the Lebanese, there is no Shiite, Sunni, Druze, or Maronite economy, and no Shiite security. If security is threatened, everyone's security is threatened, and if the economy falters, it is the economy of the Lebanese which will be affected."

He pointed out that "some schools in West Beirut are expelling female Muslim students who wear the Islamic veil, and we must address this issue with firmness. We demand that they be given the freedom to wear the veil, because this matter has implications not only against Islam, but also against the Lebanese homeland and people. It is the right of all our students in any school or university or educational facility to be committed to their studies and to have the right to keep the veil, because it is not a mere uniform or decoration." He urged "all Lebanese people of all factions and sects to confront this tendency followed by some schools in West Beirut in order to stifle the freedom of Muslim

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female students. We will not accept it and we will adopt appropriate measures."

Meanwhile, Shaykh 'Abd-al-Amir Qublan, grand Ja'farite mufti and Supreme Islamic Shiite Council deputy, wondered, "why would anybody disagree if there is a constitution which has everyone's blessing and is supported by them, and if there are laws and institutions, and if there is a refusal to equate the homeland with individuals," warning everyone against "this dangerous tendency" and urging them to "uphold civil peace."

He demanded the formation of a neutral committee to discuss a modern electoral law, noting a "vagueness in political practices and the fact that the players are involved in personal agendas that bear no relation to the people's ambitions or the homeland's future and its aspirations."

He said that "the political crew must change to a genuine lifeboat and a guiding entity which would enlist all potential in order to confront problems."

Cabinet Appoints Governors, Extends Commander's Term

NC2011172695 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 16 Nov 95 p 3

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] At its weekly meeting yesterday, the cabinet approved a new group of administrative appointments covering 12 vacant posts. It appointed Nicholas Saba governor of Beirut and Muhmmad Suhayl Yammut governor of Jabal Lubnan and placed former governor Amin Yammud at the disposal of the interior minister. It also appointed 'Isam Salman director general of protocol at the prime minister's office.

The cabinet extended the retirement age of Army Commander General Emile Lahhud by three years. It extended the mission of a number of non-career ambassadors for three additional years. It extended the actual service of Major General Rafiq al-Hasan, director general of the Internal Security Forces by one year after a decree had been issued referring him to retirement. [passage omitted]

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Al-Asad Conveys Condolences to Mubarak

JN1911212295 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 19 Nov 95

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Text] President Hafiz al-Asad this evening placed a telephone call to Egyptian President Husni Mubarak. His excellency voiced regret over the explosion at the Egyptian Embassy in the Pakistani capital, Islamabad. He also offered condolences for the victims of the incident.

Khaddam on Domestic, International Issues

JN2011152395 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1220 GMT 20 Nov 95

[Interview with Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam by correspondents Nabil Sabbagh and Thana' al-Imam in Damascus; date not given—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Sabbagh] Your Excellency Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam: Paris Radio Monte Carlo greets you on the Corrective Movement anniversary. First, we congratulate you on this occasion, and I suggest that the interview center on three axes: Regional, local, and international. 'Abd-al-Halim, over the past 25 years, the Corrective Movement has achieved many of the goals it set. Are there any goals it has not yet achieved?

[Khaddam] Syria under the leadership of His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad has made important achievements in all walks of life — economic, political, cultural, social, and scientific. We can say that each of these achievements laid the foundation of another achievement, and that some ambitions have not yet been achieved, particularly the basic ones that fill the minds and hearts of every Arab citizen, and every Syrian citizen in particular. The first of these ambitions is the liberation of the land. So, we will continue to feel that something is missing as long as any inch of land remains under occupation. We will continue to work to achieve that ambition and that goal, which is as much national as [words indistinct]. By liberation of the land, I mean the liberation of the Arab land, whether in Lebanon or the Golan. The second ambition is to build a new Arab order, which will open the way for the Arabs to achieve their pan-Arab unity; to enjoy security, stability, and prosperity; to achieve integration; to confront external challenges; to foil foreign pressures; to enhance the Arab nation's political independence; and to contribute to the building of a new world of security, justice, stability, and equality for everyone.

[Al-Imam] Your Excellency the Vice President: How do you view the current Arab situation in general in light of the new international changes?

[Khaddam] As we can see, the Arab situation is complicated. There have been some breakdowns which pose grave threats to the Arabs' present and future. Thus, as I pointed out a short while ago, our ambition is to work to provide a new Arab atmosphere that will stop these breakdowns, remove their causes, and make the Arab homeland more secure, stable, and free, and increase the chances of attaining Arab aspirations.

[Sabbagh] But if we look at the real situation, we will see that some Arab states, including non-confrontation states, want to expedite the normalization of relations with Israel to guarantee their security and stability. These states view normalization as a passport to reap the promised fruits of the so-called new Middle East order. Damascus' position on this issue can be described as follows: Safety comes with patience and regret comes from rashness. On the other hand, what is the future of the Arab Boycott Office?

[Khaddam] The following, which is gleaned from history, must be clear: There is no external security. In other words, security does not come from abroad; it is not exported. Security is achieved through coherence between governments and their people. When such a coherence is nonexistent, foreigners cannot provide security. In addition to this, when foreigners provide security, this comes at the expense of the basic rights of the country seeking support from foreigners, therefore, the Arab countries surrounding Palestine and other Arab countries are accelerating steps to establish relations with Israel are deceiving themselves. Also, since Israel cannot provide security for itself, how can we expect it to provide security for others? Those who seek security and stability must seek this inside their own countries, not outside, however, if the objective of security is stop external aggressions against this or that country, then a new Arab order must be set up to prevent a repetition of what took place in the past and to lay the ground for a collective Arab security in which Arab responsibility will be collective.

With regard to those coveting money, they are nursing delusions, because the region will not receive any money. If any such money comes to the region, Israel will be the recipient. If some of them [the regional players] receive any such money, it will be in exchange for promoting Israeli interests to the detriment of Arab interests. Let us speak clearly. Who will be paying? Will it be the United States of America? We are all witness to the sharp financial crisis experienced by the United States of America. The Americans have announced that

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their contributions will not measure up to the dreams of some. With regard to Europe, it has great responsibilities to shoulder in the European Continent. Europe has clearly announced that it has its own institutions, and that any possible European aid will have to be channeled through these institutions. This is what the Europeans have said. The volume of this aid will also have to be tolerable, the Europeans have noted.

Regarding the Arab states, I do not think that any of us believe that the economic situation of many Arab states will allow them to contribute tens of billions of dollars. Those who believe that the money will pour into the region are mistaken. Additionally, the attempt to sell out the nation's rights in exchange for funds is unreasonable and unacceptable. The peoples' rights cannot be sold out, nor can they become an instrument of bargaining. Attempts to do just that were instrumental in the creating a state of instability in many Arab states. The same holds true for many other states that bargained over their peoples' rights in exchange for specific financial benefits.

[Sabbagh] Based on the above assessment, one senses an implicit reference to the Casablanca and Amman summits. It should be recalled that Syria, which boycotted these two summits, will take part in the upcoming Barcelona summit, which will be attended by Israel.

[Khaddam] With regard to participation in the Barcelona summit, the situation is different. The objective of these two summits was to normalize relations with Israel, to recognize Israel's legitimacy as part of the region, and to open up the region to it. The two summits aimed to reformulate the region on geographic bases that guarantee Israel's interests, and not on pan-Arab bases that ensure Arab interests. The prime objective was to break down the Arab identity, and to predicate inter-Arab ties upon geographic proximity rather than pan-Arab considerations and a single pan-Arab identity.

We opposed the Casablanca and Amman summits, because, as I have said, the object was to guarantee implementation of the Zionist plan to build a new Middle East, however, the objectives of the Barcelona conference are different. The party that called for this conference is the European Union [EU]. The EU's goal is to establish relations with the Mediterranean states, particularly the Arab states. In other words, its objective is to find an appropriate place for Europe in the Arab homeland in terms of cooperation and interaction.

We believe the Arabs have a great interest in establishing cooperation between the Arab world and the EU. The objectives of the Barcelona conference are completely different from those of the Amman and Casablanca conferences, therefore, we decided to take part in this conference, regardless of whether Israel will participate. This conference is like any other conference held under the auspices of the United Nations or within the framework of its organizations and institutions.

[Sabbagh] Has Damascus received any particular indirect signals following the assassination of Yitzhaq Rabin and charging Shim'on Peres with forming the new Israeli Government? Has Damascus received signs demonstrating Israel's determination to break the logjam in the talks and end the standstill that has existed since the Madrid conference?

[Khaddam] As you know, the situation in Israel now is a transitional one. It is hard to say whether a transitional government can give positive or negative signals. What the Israelis have announced is that they will continue their previous policy, however, we, like anyone else, hope the new Israeli Government will reconsider its policies toward the peace process. We hope this rethinking will pave the way for the achievement of a comprehensive and just peace based on the implementation of the Security Council resolutions.

[Al-Imam] Supposing that Israel has actually sent the most positive signal for Syria; that is, its desire to fully withdraw from the occupied Golan. Would Syria be ready to hold direct talks on a higher level — something Damascus has always rejected and Israel has demanded?

[Khaddam] First of all, Syria is concerned about the terms of reference and framework of the peace process. At the same time, Israel is attempting to push the Arab parties into talks outside the framework of the terms of reference and Madrid conference. Therefore, Syria is holding fast to the framework and terms of reference of the peace process. Regarding the level [of talks], there have been two meetings between the chiefs of staff of the two countries. This level is not a technical one, but is rather a high political level. No agreement was reached on one single serious thing during the two meetings.

So, the issue is not that of a level, but it is related to the Israeli stand. Does Israel really want to establish peace based on international legitimacy — an equitable [mutakafi'] and balanced peace that will bring stability and security to the region? Until now Israel has not proceeded from these two dictums. It wants a peace that will ensure its interests irrespective of the interests of the Arab parties. It wants a peace which ensures its security regardless of the security of the Arab parties.

[Sabbagh] Is there any other reason for the stalemate in the negotiations? Is it just a crisis of confidence between Syria and Israel, or are there any major differences on the peace treaty and its expected implications such as

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security arrangements, water resources, and the nature of peace between the two countries?

[Khaddam] In fact, the issue is not one of trust or mistrust between enemies. The issue of trust should be set aside. How can there be trust while Israel occupies Arab territories and refuses to recognize Arab rights? What counts is core of the problem. We want to see a clearcut commitment to withdrawal to beyond the 4 June lines. Peace and security components should be balanced, equal [mutasawi], and equitable [mutakafi'], so that no party will have rights at the expense of the rights of the other party.

[Sabbagh] How can we explain Israel's demand for a popular referendum on withdrawal from the Golan? Such a step was not taken following the signing of the Camp David accords.

[Khaddam] We reject this in substance and form. Syrian land is Syrian land, and its identity cannot be defined by this or that number of Israeli voters. If the Israelis want peace, the road to it is well known.

[Al-Imam] Has the U.S. role since the Madrid conference continued to be that of an honest broker, or has it changed following the recent Congress elections under the Jewish lobby's pressures? This fact was recently embodied in the Congress decision to transfer the U.S. Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.

[Khaddam] The U.S. Administration constantly says it will continue the role it has pledged to play. All the U.S. Administration's contacts with us emphasize this role and its continuity. Undoubtedly, however, the Congress decision to transfer the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem gives a negative and serious signal. This signal shows that the Arab-Israeli conflict has become part of the U.S. internal policy.

Naturally, this being the case, we should expect many complications that will negatively reflect on the peace process, on Arab interests, and on U.S. interests, therefore, we hope that the U.S. Administration will take appropriate measures to distinguish between U.S. internal policies and U.S. external policies that are linked to peoples' interests and rights.

[Al-Imam] Syrian officials recently hinted that Damascus could play new cards if pressures continue on it regarding the peace process. Do we have an idea about the nature of these cards?

[Khaddam] First, Syria does not yield to pressure and does not accept any kind of pressure from anyone. We joined the peace process because we are convinced that the region is in dire need of peace.

I do not believe that anyone would say that he can put pressures on Syria or isolate it. This is because peace in the region is impossible without Syria. Some Arab parties have actually signed some agreements, however, these agreements do not constitute peace, and they have further complicated the peace process on the one hand, and weakened the Arab side on the other.

Hence, we basically take into account our own position, our status in the Arab arena, and the great support we receive from most Arabs and most Arab governments. Moreover, the Arabs in the street stand alongside Syria and see that the Syrian position is sound and that it truly and actually reflects Syrian aspirations, rights, and dignity.

[Sabbagh] In light of the previous question, some observers wonder whether it is possible to establish a geographic depth or a strategic Syrian-Iraqi-Iranian alliance to counter the Israeli-Jordanian-Palestinian axis.

[Khaddam] If such an axis were to come into existence, it would not be against Syria alone. It would be against the entire Arab nation, therefore, the entire Arab nation is required to form a barrier against that axis. In addition, such an axis would also harm the Islamic states, therefore, these states should also work to block it, however, it is premature to talk about axes, although we see some signs of them. We do not want to foretell matters and derive facts from signs. When such a matter takes place, we will work to unite all Arabs in one rank to counter the Zionist project.

[Sabbagh] Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam: Jordan has recently called for removing tension with Damascus. What is Syria's reply to the Jordanian call?

[Khaddam] If an Arab side originally committed to the Arab League Charter and the Collective Arab Defense Pact concludes a cooperation treaty with Israel while the latter is still occupying the Arab lands in Palestine, Syria, and Lebanon and while the Israeli planes and artillery are attacking villages and cities in southern Lebanon, I say if that fraternal country reaches an agreement with Israel under these circumstances, it will create tension. It is not Syria that has created tension. We have not tried to create tension with any Arab side. But if this or that side departs from normalcy, Arab legitimacy, the Arab summits' resolutions, the Arab League Charter, the Arab accords and charters, it will create a crisis for itself and for the Arabs.

As I said, we seek good relationship with all the Arab countries, however, when a sisterly Arab country has commitments to cooperate with the enemy, is it logical to see cooperation between the Israeli Air Force and

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the air force of an Arab country at a time when Israeli aircraft are raiding Lebanon? If some Arabs — and I do not want to name names — believe that there is tension between them and Syria, and they want to remove this tension, that road is also known.

[Sabbagh] Let us move now from Syrian-Jordanian relations to Syrian-Iranian relations. What is the effect of the development in Israeli-Syrian talks on Syrian-Iranian relations?

[Khaddam] You know that our relations with Iran are good. These relations are based on mutual understanding of the current situation in the region. They understand our policy, and we understand their policies as a result of the dialogue and discussion and our view of the dangers threatening the Arab and Islamic world. The talks between Syria and Israel have not had negative repercussions on relations between Damascus and Tehran.

[Sabbagh] Periodic ministerial meetings are held between Damascus, Tehran, and Ankara to discuss developments in Iraq. Do these capitals have a common interest in maintaining the current situation in Iraq in light of the bitter suffering of its people as a result of the international sanctions? In your opinion, what is the way out from this tragic situation?

[Khaddam] In fact, the periodic meetings are not to review the developments in Iraq, but to express concern over Iraq's unity. At one point, the issue of Iraq's unity was raised. They also raised the issue of reorganizing the Iraqi state into a federal state, as well as the issue of dividing Iraq into three mini-states. This plan is being raised again ....

[Sabbagh, interrupting] By an Arab side.

[Khaddam] In fact, by Arab and foreign sides. There is no doubt that the major side behind this plan is Israel.

To date, the highest ambition of each and every Arab is to achieve Arab unity. But given the ongoing attempts at disintegration, the ambition is now to safeguard the national unity of the Arab states. It is in Israel's interest to see Iraq fragmented. This is because by fragmenting Iraq, Israel aims to control Iraq's oil sources. Israel aims to border Iraq, Iran, and Pakistan. It aims to beleaguer the Gulf. An Israeli extension into Iraq would in practical terms raise the issue of Greater Israel. That is why there is an emphasis on fragmenting and dividing Iraq. That is why the Arab homeland and the neighboring Islamic states, namely Iran and Turkey, are concerned about the prospects of such division and fragmentation. That is why we have strongly supported Iraq's territorial integrity. We believe that the plans in this regard could undermine and jeopardize pan-Arab security.

[Sabbagh] Mr. Syrian Vice President: The Iraqi people are suffering. Recently, several Arab officials have appealed for an end to the sufferings of the Iraqi people. Where does Damascus stand on these appeals and calls?

[Khaddam] As a matter of fact, the Iraqi people's suffering is a source of concern to all sides. The Iraqi people are not responsible for any decision made in Baghdad by the Iraqi Government. Without question, our concern must call on all Arabs to look for ways to reconcile the Iraqi citizen's suffering with the existing political differences between some Arab states and the Iraqi Government.

[Al-Imam] Mr. Vice President: Is it true that Iraq has repeatedly requested participation in these tripartite meetings?

[Khaddam] To the best of my knowledge, Iraq initially protested these meetings, even though they were aimed at safeguarding Iraqi interests. But Iraq has increasingly been viewing these meetings favorably. This is because the Iraqi Government, I believe, realized the scope of the dangers entailed in the anti-Iraq schemes. Moreover, Iraq realized that these states, and all the other Arab states that have not taken part in these meetings, for that matter, are interested in safeguarding Iraq's unity and concerned over the attempts to fragment or partition Iraq.

[Sabbagh] Some major opponents of the Iraqi regime are based in Damascus. But efforts to unify the ranks of this opposition have failed, therefore, the United States stepped in to pool the efforts of this opposition in order to install a new regime in Iraq. Where do you stand on this issue?

[Khaddam] We have not actively or directly interfered to unify the parties of the Iraqi opposition. However, we hope these parties will cooperate in the interest of Iraq. Of course, our opinion on this issue is different from that of others. We are inspired by the principle that each Arab country is responsible for its own affairs. Nobody has the right to interfere in the internal affairs of any country. Some Western countries tried to establish some sort of alliance joining some Iraqi opposition parties, however, there were no results in the final analysis.

[Al-Imam] It is said that tension currently plagues Syrian-Turkish relations against the backdrop of Syria's support for the Kurdistan Workers Party [PKK], as Ankara claims, and failure to sign a final agreement on a fair distribution of the Euphrates as demanded by Damascus. Do you see a possibility for overcoming this tension, and does Syria believe that this issue is part

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of the pressure being applied against it in the peace process?

[Khaddam] Syria has no interest in creating a condition of instability in Turkey. Turkey is a neighboring country. We have many interests in common. Our borders with Turkey exceed 800 kilometers. Syria has no interest in seeing instability in Turkey. Equally, Turkey should have an interest in the stability of its neighboring countries. As we know, there is a problem in Turkey. Syria did not and will not extend any assistance that would violate Turkey's security and stability. What is said about the Turkish PKK party is not true. Why should Syria resort to supporting such a party? What will Syria realize through this? What interest does Syria have in this regard? Syria has no interest in this. Syria did not and will not do this. Of course, some parties in Turkey, whether the media or politicians, try to level accusations against Syria within the context of debate over domestic issues, especially since it is election season there.

Several security meetings were held between the two countries. We unequivocally asserted that Syria cannot help any force to undermine Turkey's security.

We do not link the water issue to the security issue. Our interest is to reach an agreement on water-sharing between Syria, Turkey, and Iraq. We also have an interest in a stable Turkish Government, because a stable government is more capable of holding negotiations and reaching an agreement, whereas an unstable government cannot do so. Consequently, Syria is interested in a stable situation in Turkey. It is not interested in the opposite.

[Sabbagh] It is noted that whenever differences erupt between some officials in Lebanon, they visit Damascus individually or in groups. Eyes are then trained on Damascus to monitor the signals that it may show. These signs are interpreted in such a way as to say that Syria interferes in everything in Lebanon. What is your reply to all this?

[Khaddam] Those who spread rumors that Syria interferes in everything in Lebanon are doing an injustice to both Syria and Lebanon. We have not actually tried, and we will not try, to interfere in any internal Lebanese affair.

We actually coordinate two basic things: First, supporting the march of security and reconciliation in Lebanon. In other words, we extend the security assistance requested by the Lebanese Government.

Second, we coordinate and cooperate on confronting the [Israeli] occupation on the one hand and on the negotiating process on the other. Apart from these two things, they do not check with us, nor do we try to check with any of them.

Naturally, there are government institutions in Lebanon. An issue is sometimes raised and various viewpoints are expressed on it. The Lebanese media depict these viewpoints as contradictions, differences, and disputes, which is not actually the case.

Controversial issues are sometimes raised. Naturally, Lebanese officials try to benefit from the Syrian experience, so this or that Lebanese brother comes for consultations. Naturally, we advise them all to cooperate with each other and find solutions to problems through dialogue and discussions, and this actually takes place.

[Sabbagh] Finally, Mr. 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam, in your capacity as an official and the comrade of President Hafiz al-Asad on the road of struggle, al-Asad was described, among other things, as the Bismarck of the Arab world. In your opinion, what is the most appropriate description of al-Asad?

[Khaddam] I knew President Hafiz al-Asad a long time ago when we were still youths. We knew each other through the [Ba'th] party. We then continued our work in the party. Throughout this long period, President Hafiz al-Asad proved to be a zealous patriotic man who loves his country. And his country is not only Syria — it is the country of all the Arabs. He loves his country, and is concerned about his nation and its future. You can describe him as the torch in a dark time. In fact, he possesses what many historic leaders possessed. The most important characteristic of President al-Asad is the ability to enlighten people, foresee events, and analyze these events, and consequently to achieve balance in internal relations among all sectors of society, as well in foreign relations. As we know, Syria has faced difficult circumstances, and decisionmaking was a difficult task. Despite this, our president succeeded in maintaining balance between the ideological and phased, between the principled and practical. I believe these are the characteristics of the successful leader.

[Sabbagh] Your Excellency Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam, thank you for this interview.

[Khaddam] Thank you, and through you I greet all listeners of Radio Monte Carlo, wishing you success.

[Sabbagh] Are you one of them?

[Khaddam] Yes.

[Sabbagh] Thank you.

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Afghanistan

Acting Defense Minister Comments on UAE Visit

LD1711185095 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 17 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Esteemed Mohammad Yonis Qanuni, acting minister of defense, left (?this afternoon) for the United Arab Emirates at the head of a high ranking delegation to take part in the opening ceremony of an international civil aviation exhibition at the invitation of the crown prince and UAE's minister of defense.

After the opening of this exhibition, Esteemed Qanuni, accompanied by the UAE's minister of defense, visited various sections of this exhibition.

According to another report, the acting minister of defense, met Mr Saykh Muhammad Bin-Rashid Al Maktum, crown prince and minister of defense of the United Arab Emirates, and briefed him on the recent political-military developments of our country.

The UAE's crown prince and minister of defense then praised the resistance and self-sacrifice of the people of Afghanistan against colonialism and enemies of Afghanistan's freedom and expressed his country's readiness to take part in the reconstruction of Afghanistan.

Rabbani Offers Condolences to Egypt's Mubarak

LD2011214095 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 20 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani, president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, has sent the following message of condolences to Hosni Mubarak, president of the Arab Republic of Egypt regarding the explosion at the Egyptian embassy in Islamabad:

I received with great sorrow the news of the explosion at the embassy of the friendly country of Egypt in Islamabad which also caused losses of life. Therefore, I would like to convey both mine and the people of Afghanistan's condolences and commiseration to you, dear brother, and the people of Egypt. While we condemn this terrorist act, we plead with God that the bereaved will be endowed with perseverance and that the injured will soon recover.

Taleban Advances Frontline by 10 Km East of Kabul

BK1811125895 Hong Kong AFP in English 1240 GMT 18 Nov 95

[Report by Marc Lavine]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] KABUL, Nov 18 (AFP) — The Islamic Taleban militia have lauched a major attack on government troops near Kabul in a bid to broaden their siege of the Afghan capital, defence officials said here Saturday [18 November].

About 1,000 Taleban fighters attacked the government forces 30 kilometers (19 miles) southeast of the capital using tanks, missiles, artillery and rockets, and captured "some ground" as well as several state positions in the area, they said.

Late Saturday, Afghan Islamic Press (AIP), a mojahedin information agency based in Pakistan with wireless contacts inside Afghanistan, said the Taleban had taken at least 15 villages during the fighting since Friday.

AIP said the militia had advanced by about 10 kilometers (six miles) and the new frontline now was at Botkhak, east of Kabul. A counter-offensive by government troops Saturday morning failed to push the attackers back, it added.

Earlier, a Taleban official in Pakistan said a two-pronged attack was launched overnight. "Our forces went into action from east and south of Kabul and the fighting was still continuing" Mulla Malang said, claiming the Taleban were "advancing."

The Kabul officials said heavy fighting had continued in the area since the initial Taleban push, while forces loyal to President Borhanoddin Rabbani mounted a counter-offensive early Saturday — which included a series of aerial bombing raids — in an attempt to win back some of the lost territory.

"Intense fighting is underway to the east of the city and the Taleban have lost many men as the government troops were in defence positions and were therefore better protected," a defence ministry official said.

He said the Taleban fighters were attempting to extend one of the three frontlines hemming in the city to the south, and to push round to the east of Kabul in a bid to make the besieged city more vulnerable.

The "rebels" want to rid the east of the city of government control and also push back the opposition Hezb-e Eslami, who are encamped 50 kilometers (31 miles) from Kabul, and who also want to bring down the government and take power for themselves, he said.

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The black-turbaned religious fighters — who are attempting to topple the Kabul governmnet and impose Islamic law on the whole of Afghanistan — had attacked the southeastern flank of the city three times in the first 24 hours of the "bitter" battle, the defence sources said.

The official said however that government troops had prevented the so-called "religious students" from achieving their goal.

No figures were immediately available for casualties on either side, but the officials said the Taleban dead and wounded far outnumbered those of the government.

The Taleban, who have been encamped around Kabul for the past month, rose up from the Koranic schools of southern Afghanistan last year, and have since won control of large parts of the country and have upset the former balance of power.

They are demanding that Rabbani step down and hand over power to the Islamic fighters, but the president has refused to resign until a ceasefire is in place in their war-torn country and until there is an end to "foreign interference" here.

The government has accused Pakistan of backing and supllying the rebels with arms and logistical support, a charge Islamabad has denied.

The Taleban have rejected a UN-proposed transfer of power in Kabul to a 28-man council.

UN special envoy Mahmoud Mestiri, a former Tunisian foreign minister, unveiled the composition of the council here Thursday, saying Rabbani had accepted the list.

A Taleban official, Malvi Masoom, said in Pakistan Friday the plan was unacceptable because it "protects" the Kabul regime and that it would "add fuel to the fire of war" in Afghanistan.

Masoom reiterated that Rabbani should resign unconditionally, asserting that only Taleban were "competent and capable" to establish peace and Islamic law in the country.

Government Said To Repulse Taleban Attack

LD1811170995 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 18 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The forces of the Islamic army foiled an attack last night by Benazir Bhutto's Taleban in the direction of Khord-Kabul.

A source of the armed forces reported to BAKHTAR that Benazir Bhutto's Taleban launched an attack last night in the direction of Khord-Kabul. The Taleban attack was defeated as a result of resistance by the mojahedin and forces of the Islamic army. In the course of Taleban's attack, dozens of them were killed and a number were wounded.

Three heavy weapons of Taleban were destroyed during the last night's fighting. Heavy fighting is still going on in this direction. No report is as yet available on detail of the fighting.

'Source' Details Latest Fighting With Taleban

LD1811151195 Tehran IRNA in English 1445 GMT 18 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kabul, Nov 18, IRNA — Resumption of Taleban rocket attacks on the Afghan capital on Saturday [18 November] left 2 persons dead and 8 others wounded.

The Taleban shelled four different districts of Kabul including its airport early Saturday morning, causing casualties and damage to property. The shelling came after a four-day suspension of Taleban rocket attacks against Kabul which which had led to the killing or wounding of some 100 people.

In the meantime, a strategic position manned by Taleban forces in the "Khord" region, 30 km southeast of here, has been reportedly captured by government forces.

A source in Afghanistan Defense Ministry told IRNA on Saturday the Taleban have embarked on three vast military operations against government forces since Thursday night. The Taleban forces haved been forced to retreat after suffering heavy casualties, the source added.

During armed conflicts between President Rabbani's forces and the Taleban militants in the last two days, scores of people from both sides have been killed or wounded. The government forces claim they have destroyed parts of the Taleban's heavy artillery pieces.

Meanwhile, the government jet fighters have reportedly raided Taleban positions in the regions of "Chahar Asiab" and "Maydan Shahr" twice Friday night.

Last week the government forces succeeded in recapturing some of its previous positions in "Maydan Shahr".

Taleban Rockets Reportedly Kill 10 in Kabul

LD2011205995 Tehran IRNA in English 2045 GMT 20 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kabul, Nov 20 (IRNA) — "Would Afghanistan ever see an end to the this carnage and fratricide?"

The question was asked by a bewildered father as he searched among the debris of a house for the bodies of his innocent children following Monday's [20

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November] mid-day air raid on Kabul which left some ten civilians dead and several others injured.

The aircraft, said to belong to the Taleban militia which is locked in a struggle to oust President Borhanoddin Rabbani from power, unleashed three deadly rockets on a residential area of central Kabul, destroying or damaging scores of houses.

"The oppressed people of Afghanistan seem to be a forgotten lot since none is willing to save them from the current crisis," said Ahmad Yusufzai, amid the wailing of women and children, as more and more bodies were pulled out from under the debris.

The Taleban, who have rejected the United Nations peace plan to resolve the Afghan crisis, have launched air raids on Kabul over the past two days, killing a group of innocent people of the city.

Kabul says Pakistan is supporting the Taleban, a charge which both the militia and Islamabad vehemently deny.

Islamic Forces Repel Taleban Offensive

LD2011174795 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 20 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Benazir Bhutto's Taleban mounted an offensive in the southeast this morning and was defeated as a result of the Islamic forces' resistance. An armed forces source reported to BAKHTAR that the Islamic Army forces repulsed another offensive by the hireling Taleban in [words indistinct] early this morning. Warplanes of the Islamic state's Air Force bombarded the Taleban fortifications and positions several times as a result of which a Taleban tank was destroyed and a number of their personnel were killed. The Islamic Army artillery units set ablaze two Taleban ammunition dumps during a precision bombardment at noon today.

Bangladesh

Editorial Seeks U.S. Help in Ganges Water Problem

BK2111033695 Dhaka DAINIK INQILAB in Bengali 29 Oct 95 p 5

[Editorial: "United States Can Become a Better Friend"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Khaleda Zia, addressing the special commemorative session of the United Nations on the occasion of its 50th founding anniversary, sought the cooperation of world leaders in resolving the Farakka problem [with India over Ganges River water sharing]. To summarize her appeal, it was reported that the resolution of this problem has become impossible or is doomed to fail at the bilateral level. At this stage, Bangladesh is seeking an international solution. Other countries should consider the adverse impact of the Farakka dam on Bangladesh and also the prime minister's appeal in this regard; they should introduce their own initiatives and support to help find an acceptable solution to this problem.

This opportunity arose following the prime minister's appeal. Several countries have expressed their sincere desire in the past to extend support on this issue. Iran could be mentioned in this regard. When the Iranian president was advised of the Farakka problem during his recent visit to Bangladesh, he expressed willingness to render all possible assistance in resolving this problem. The statement made by Nepal can also be recalled. Nepal has always said that it is willing to extend the cooperation required to resolve this problem. Nepalese Prime Minister Deuba reiterated his country's stand on this issue during his New York meeting with Zia.

Observers are of the opinion that Russia, Britain, and particularly the United States can play an important role in resolving this problem. Both Bangladesh and India currently have cordial relations with the United States. On the basis of this relationship, the United States can assist in achieving a logical solution to this problem. Observers are of the opinion that the United States will be supported by its European allies, including Britain and Russia, if it proposes any initiative in this regard. The United States should take advantage of its present status in the world and play a special role in resolving the Farakka problem.

Everyone knows that India's purpose in constructing the Farakka dam has not been achieved. India said its objective was to make the Hooghly River navigable, with a view to keeping Calcutta Port operational. The Farakka dam has failed to make the Hooghly River navigable or to keep the Calcutta Port running in the 20 years since its commissioning. India received international assistance for the construction of this dam because it said that it needed the dam for the aforementioned reasons.

The United States had a big stake in the organization that provided assistance for the construction of the dam. Hence, it is natural that the United States should have something to do with this issue. Today, after so many years, it can be seen that the Farakka dam is not a life and death problem of only the Bangladeshi people. The people of the Indian State of West Bengal and other adjoining regions are also affected by the dam. The Hooghly River siltation problem has not been solved since the commissioning of the Farakka dam. On the contrary, it has increased, and large tracts of sandy lands have risen from the river bed of the Hooghly.

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The river has to be dredged more frequently, with a view to keeping it navigable. This cost has also increased. Furthermore, the dam also creates recurrent floods in the upstream areas, which causes large-scale erosion in the coastal belt. The people of West Bengal and other adjoining areas are always expressing their anger and dissatisfaction as they suffer damages and disasters due to the dam. This means that the Farakka dam has become a death trap, not only for Bangladesh but also for the eastern region of India.

Experts are of the opinion that this curse on the lives of the billions of people of this region can be removed if it is possible to properly develop and utilize the water resources of the Ganges River, which is an international river flowing through Nepal, India, and Bangladesh. This will usher in a new era of development and solidarity in the region. The Bangladeshi people desire a logical solution of this problem, not only for their own interest and welfare, but also for the well-being of the people of Nepal and of those living in the eastern region of India.

It will be a great success for the United States if the United States comes forward to play an effective role in this regard and if this problem can be resolved through its efforts and initiatives. By taking this initiative, the United States can become a closer friend to this region's people. The opinion expressed in this regard by influential Republican Senator Hank Brown, who is also chairman of the Foreign Affairs Subcommittee for Asia and the Pacific, deserves careful consideration. While talking to the editor of INQILAB during the latter's recent visit to the United States, the senator said the United States can play an important role by extending help in finding a solution to the Ganges water sharing problem between India and Bangladesh. The good wishes reflected through his comment are encouraging.

Iran Said To Provide Assistance in Joint Projects

BK1711133795 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in Bengali 1500 GMT 16 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Iran has agreed to provide Bangladesh with assistance in developing its energy, communication, and railway sectors. Finance Minister Saifur Rahman said this to BSS at the Zia International Airport after returning from Tehran where he attended the Bangladesh-Iran Joint Economic Commission meeting. He said Tehran has agreed to assist in building a Liquefied Petroleum Gas, LPG, plant and in other joint venture projects for the mutual interest of the people of the two countries.

The finance minister described the meeting as successful and fruitful. He said an agreement was reached at the meeting to further strengthen existing trade and other relations between the two countries.

India

More Cooperation Among Indian Ocean Nations Urged

BK2011084195 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1530 GMT 19 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The prime minister, Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao, has called for greater cooperation among Indian Ocean region countries for their mutual benefit. Inaugurating the fifth Indira Gandhi International Conference in New Delhi this evening, Mr. Narasimha Rao said the concept of Indian Ocean community has validity as it has now become feasible. Our correspondent Rudranath Sanyal has the details:

[Begin recording] [Sanyal] For the next three days, the fifth Indira Gandhi conference will look at avenues for converting the Indian Ocean region into an Indian Ocean community. The participants are conscious that this region has acquired a special significance in the post-Cold War environment and the emerging new world order. The Indian Ocean region accounts for one-third of the world's population and a reservoir of some of the world's vital natural resources. The region stretches from Australia to South Africa with India in between. The Indira Gandhi Memorial Trust has sponsored this conference. The prime minister, Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao, who inaugurated the conference, felt that the groundwork for the making of an Indian Ocean community has been prepared.

[Rao] The ground for an Indian Ocean-based regional cooperation has already been prepared by the maturing of some subregional economic cooperation groupings such as ASEAN and AFTA [ASEAN Free Trade Area]. The recasting of such groupings as SADC [Southern African Development Community] with the inclusion of South Africa, the formation of new ones like SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] and SAPTA [South Asian Preferential Trading Arrangement] in our own region, and the continuation of groups like the GCC [Gulf Cooperation Council]. Care has to be taken to attempt regional cooperation in an orderly, progressive and properly-sequenced way. [applause]

[Sanyal] The chairperson of the Indira Gandhi Memorial Trust, Mrs. Sonia Gandhi, said it is necessary to create an atmosphere of optimism among the countries of the region.

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[Sonia Gandhi, in progress] ... the resurgent peoples of Asia and Africa have begun to create stronger industrial and agricultural economies within their own territories and also to reestablish material and cultural exchanges with their neighbors. The ending +f the Cold War and the consequent reduction of military presence in this Indian Ocean region is another cause for optimism.

[Sanyal] The former president of Zambia, Dr. Kenneth Kaunda, and the former Commonwealth secretary general, Sir Sridath Ramphal, spoke to Doordarshan about the conference and the significance of the Indian Ocean region.

[Kaunda] So far as the idea is concerned, we support this as a plan to grow in strength because it is an idea whose time has come. It is correct and its time has come and I have no doubt at all that it will succeed.

[Ramphal] We are entering into a new period of history and the prospects for community in the Indian Ocean are, I suspect, going to rest with the question whether the new forces of history can bring this region together and make community a reality.

[Sanyal] This is Rudranath Sanyal reporting for Doordarshan News, New Delhi. [end recording]

Visiting PRC Official Calls For Boosting Trade

BK2111105095 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 21 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The visiting president of the Chinese National People's Congress, Mr. Qiao Shi, has proposed a twin city relationship between Shanghai and Bombay to give a boost to Sino-Indian trade relations. Mr. Shi said China wanted to cooperate with India in science and technology, as well as agriculture and telecommunications. Mr. Shi is leading a 13-member delegation to the country.

Editorial Views Importance of PRC Official's Visit

BK2111034795 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 20 Nov 95 p 13

[Editorial: "Beyond the Visit"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Mr Qiao Shi, who is on a visit to India, is the third highest ranking leader in Communist China. This is important in an extremely protocol-conscious China and, if one were to bear in mind that Premier Li Peng is more of an executive boss than a political bigwig, the esteem for Mr Qiao would place him next to President and Communist Party chief Jiang Zemin.

This lends to his visit an importance which is self-evident in his schedule itself—meetings with President S.D. Sharma, Vice President K.R. Narayanan, Prime Minister Narasimha Rao and, of course, his protocol counterpart, Lok Sabha Speaker Shivraj Patil. Since Mr Qiao's visit is obviously being seen as a major event, its fall-out should be studied closely. The Chinese leader seemed to give the impression that with the confidence building measures keeping a steady progress, prospects of resolving the border dispute, a legacy of history, are becoming brighter.

What is to be noted in particular is the fact that Mr Qiao's itinerary includes visits to Bangalore and Bombay, India's technology and commercial capitals. The purpose clearly is to make an assessment of the scope for expanding Sino-Indian co-operation in technology and trade and commerce. Mr Qiao is a major driving force in China's current economic surge, and his interaction with relevant Indians in these fields holds out promise of deeper co-operation between the two countries.

While Mr Qiao's trip to India can be seen purely as an extension of the high-level political exchanges between the two countries, there seems to be an additional dimension to it. This is not confined to India's recent foreign policy emphasis on looking East more than ever. China would in any case figure prominently as a major power in the Asia Pacific region with which India desires to collaborate closely. A certain convergence of views on stability in South Asia and in the world at large would enable India and China to project a distinctive Asian perspective on global affairs. The deliberate extension to Mr Qiao an extra-protocol reception is in line with a similar welcome that was laid out for Iranian President Rafsanjani some time ago.

Suspicious minds may try to see in all this the promotion of Tehran's fond theory of forging an axis among Iran, India and China. But that would be far-fetched in the present context. There is increasing need for an Asian assertion in world affairs, and the three countries are doing their bit towards this end. If ever there develops a kinship among the three countries, a common Western antagonism towards them may have more to do with it than a deliberate ganging up by them.

'Massive Hunt' Reported for Bomber Targeting Rao

BK2011121595 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1002 GMT 20 Nov 95

[By Upali Rupasinghe in New Delhi]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Colombo, Nov 20 (LANKAPUVATH) — Police and security agencies in New Delhi have launched a massive hunt for an LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] woman suicide bomber

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who is alleged to have slipped out of Jaffna and is now in India to assassinate Indian Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao.

Kandammani Paskaran, aged between 29 and 35 had lain in wait in Puttapathi in Andhra Pradesh, where the Indian prime minister visited the ashram [hermitage] of Satya Sai Baba [Hindu saint] on Saturday [18 November], intelligence sources said. The hunt for the suicide bomber who had been compelled to lie low in Puttapathi, continued in Andhra Pradesh even after Prime Minister Rao's departure to New Delhi. Tamil Nadu and Kerala state governments have been alerted to the possible infiltration by the would-be- assassin and her accomplices.

The security and intelligence agencies in New Delhi said that they were tipped off by Sri Lankan authorities about the brown complexioned five foot and two inches tall suicide bomber. This is the first time that intelligence about a planned attempt on the life of Rao has come to light since he became prime minister in May 1991. The LTTE used a woman suicide bomber to assassinate former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi in Sriperumbudur in Tamil Nadu.

According to security sources here, the prime minister is normally guarded by a three level security ring comprising New Delhi police providing the outer cordon, the Black Cats of the National Security Guard the middle cordon, and the Special Protection Group constituting the inner security ring. A tight security cordon was thrown on Puttapathi, Kochi, and Thiruvananthapuram when Rao visited them to attend several public functions. At Puttapathi, he inaugurated a safe drinking water supply project of Satya Sai Baba. The airport was sealed off both on his arrival and departure. Andhra Pradesh is the Indian prime minister's home state.

The security sources said that the hunt for the woman was extended to Kerala state, with the central agencies coordinating with the state police in view of the proposed visit of Sri Lankan Prime Minister Sirima Bandaranaike to Kottakkal for medical treatment.

Following the countrywide alert about the suicide bomber, Tamil Nadu and Kerala state governments have deployed special security men at their airports and travel documents of over 16,000 specially of Sri Lankan visitors had been subjected to close scrutiny since then, reports said. Meanwhile, soon after Rao's arrival in New Delhi yesterday the top brass of the security network briefed their men on plans to nab the suspected woman.

Government Said To Reestablish Contact With Al-Faran

BK2011162495 Hong Kong AFP in English 1618 GMT 20 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] SRINAGAR, India, Nov 20 (AFP) — The Indian Government is back in contact with Moslem militants holding four western hostages in Kashmir, an official spokesman said here Monday [20 November].

"We (government) have re-established contact with the militants," the spokesman told journalists here. The last contact with the militants was on November 17.

The government was willing to provide all medical facilities if Al-Faran militants releases the sick hostage on humanitarian and medical grounds, the spokesman said.

"They (the Moslem separatists) have not accepted our request so far but we are still looking forward to their release," he said.

On November 17, the previously unknown militant group, Al-Faran, warned that one of the hostages was sick and near death. It said the Indian government would have to be blamed if the hostage died.@ The same day the government appointed deputy inspector general, Ratinder Koul, as a fresh negotiator to replace Rajinder Tickoo, another senior police officer.

Al-Faran militants kidnapped Britons Paul Wells, 23, and Keith Mangan, 33, American Donald Hutchings, 42, and German Dirk Hasert, 26, in early July while they were trekking in the Kashmir Himalayas.

The militant group, however, did not specify which of the hostages was sick or what the ailment was.

A fifth hostage, Norwegian Hans-Christian Ostro, 27, was killed by militants in August and Al-Faran said other hostages would meet the same fate if the Indian government failed to release 15 imprisoned Moem militants.

The Indian Government has ruled out an exchange and said a commando-style rescue operation would be too risky.

More than 12,000 people have died in Kashmir, India's only Moslem-majority state, since 1989 in violence linked to the Moslem secessionist drive.

India accuses Pakistan of fomenting militancy in the disputed state but Islamabad denies the allegations.

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Maharashtra Minister on Revival of Enron Project

BK2111134095 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 21 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Maharashtra chief minister says that final decision about Enron power project will be taken by the 10th of next month. Talking to newspersons in Bombay today, Mr. Manohar Joshi said the company has agreed to postpone arbitration proceedings till that date. He said the experts committee set up for the revival of the Enron agreement has submitted its report and the cabinet will take a final decision before the 10th of next month.

Sensing Satellite Said Sent to Launch Station

BK1811162495 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 18 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The second generation Indian Remote Sensing Satellite, IRS-1C, was transported from Bangalore today to the launching station at Baykonur in Kazakhstan. It is slated for launch in the last week of next month by a Russian rocket.

Iran

U.S. Arms Sales to Gulf, Third World Condemned

LD1811102095 Tehran IRNA in English 0825 GMT 18 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Nov 18 (IRNA) — The Persian Gulf Arab countries have spent dlrs. 40 billion on arms purchases since the 1991 Persian Gulf war commenced with the Iraqi attack on its tiny neighbor, Kuwait, a morning daily wrote in its editorial Saturday [18 November].

The West succeeded in obtaining such huge amounts through weapons sales paid from the petrodollar revenues of the countries involved directly or indirectly in the Iraq-Kuwait war, the English-language IRAN NEWS added.

"The pro-Western regimes, particularly in the oil-rich Persian Gulf, have military plans on a road that leads nowhere," it said, adding that no matter how much armaments they buy, these countries would not be able to defend themselves as long as they continue to depend on others.

"The United States tops the list of weapons salesmen in the Third World," it stressed and quoted official statistics as saying that armaments bought from the United States by the Third World has increased after the end of the Cold War.

The same statistics indicated that Western arms sales to the Third World increased to dlrs. 20 billion in 1994 from dlrs. 14.8 billion in 1993 and dlrs. 14.6 billion in 1992, stated the article.

It noted though that the share of U.S. sales in that period jumped to 73 percent from 56 percent of all weapons sales and sales agreements.

Russia, the third largest third World Weapons supplier last year, after the United States and Britain, also upped its sales to dlrs. 1.8 billion from dlrs. 1.6 billion in the previous year, capturing a 9 percent share of the market.

"Both the powers, East or West, before the end of the Cold War used to sell weapons to the Third World with an excuse of 'potential danger' from either Moscow or Washington," it underlined.

Now the same practice is continuing through planting seeds of rivalry within the regional countries, it said, adding, "the same United States, through certain provocations, recently supplied weapons to some Asian countries which resulted in an arms race once again in this part of the world where governments have acute and basic problems to address."

The startling fact is that the Persian Gulf countries have plans to purchase more weapons from the West worth dlrs. 40 billion by the end of the century, the paper stressed, asking, "how long will the national wealth of the Third World continue to flood to the West to keep their weapons factories busy?"

Surprisingly, it said, the rulers receive an extraordinarily high percentage of kickbacks from the dealers when they sign accords for the weapons purchases.

It is only the citizens of that particular country who have every right to protest against weapons deals as these are in no way in their interest but only that of their imposed rulers, it reiterated, concluding that, "weapons deals are signed at the cost of public interest."

Tehran Radio Views Topics on OPEC's Agenda

NC2111090495 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0445 GMT 21 Nov 95

[Commentary by the News Research and Commentary Group]

[FBIS Translated Text] OPEC's 99th ordinary session, which will be attended by 12 member-countries, is to officially convene in Vienna today [21 November]. This session is being held at a time when the head of OPEC has visited several member-countries in a bid to establish coordination among OPEC members and to bring their views closer in order to achieve general agreement on production and pricing.

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Among the major topics to be discussed in the session are the OPEC production ceiling in the first half of 1996, the organization's budget deficit problem, violations of the production ceiling by some members, and Iraq's possible return to the oil market. Although currently most of the member-countries are insisting on maintaining the current production ceiling in order to boost the market and to increase oil prices, recent figures show that violations by some OPEC members of the set ceiling has led to a slump in oil prices, especially in October.

This is at a time when world oil analysts believe that if the production ceiling of 24.520 million barrels per day—which was reconfirmed during several recent OPEC sessions—is not observed, oil prices may drop once again. Thus, stressing the need to maintain the current production ceiling at the 99th OPEC session will, in addition to preventing a slump in oil prices, also strengthen members' solidarity.

Among the problems which OPEC is currently facing is the organization's budget deficit. Gabon and Iraq are among the countries that are avoiding payment of their membership fees for various reasons. Gabon, which is OPEC's smallest member, did not attend the last session and stated its protest on the mode of ensuring the organization's budget. Recently, it again asked to leave OPEC. Naturally at the current juncture, when OPEC's policy is to strive to maintain solidarity and to prevent a reduction in the number of its members, the decision by any member-country to leave will weaken the organization's position.

The problem of Iraq and its possible return to the list of OPEC exporters is another issue which most member-countries have focused their attention on. Although after the UN sanctions in 1991, Iraq has had a limited production of 400,000 barrels per day, during the past few years it has repeatedly demanded a ceiling equal to that of Iran's in OPEC. World oil experts believe that if Iraq's return to the ranks of the OPEC exporters is not coupled with a re- determination of the production ceiling of each member, it will lead to a slump in OPEC oil prices.

At any rate, oil experts foresee world demands for oil in the coming year increasing by about 1 million barrels per day. International observers believe that although OPEC members own 75 percent of the world's proven oil resources, non-OPEC members will be the ones who will strive to meet a major part of this increase in world demand. Therefore, the only way to safeguard the interests of OPEC members will be by increasing understanding and solidarity among members—something which can be achieved only under the aegis of strong discipline and order through the adoption of a mechanism for monitoring the member-countries' production.

Talks on 'Differences' With UAE Begin in Doha

LD1811151495 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1130 GMT 18 Nov 95

[Unattributed commentary]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Talks between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the United Arab Emirates, UAE, to remove the differences between the two states, opened in Doha, the capital of Qatar, Saturday November 18th. In the talks the delegation from the Islamic Republic of Iran's foreign ministry is headed by the director general of the Persian Gulf affairs of that ministry, Mr. Mirsadeqi. The delegation from the UAE is headed by Shahin al-Qamari who is in charge of the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council affairs of the UAE foreign ministry. The two sides will arrange the time and venue of future talks between the two sides at a higher level.

According to reliable sources the talks between the Iran and UAE delegations are being held in response to a letter by the UAE's amir, Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, to the president of Iran, reaching Tehran in April 1992, to solve the problems. The differences between the two countries are related to some legal issues on the Abu Musa Island in the Persian Gulf. The Islamic Republic of Iran has always desired the removal of differences through bilateral talks. In this regard the foreign minister of Iran, Dr. Velayati, in a visit to the UAE in May 1993, held dialogues with the officials of that country.

At present the resumption of dialogues aimed at the resolution of misunderstandings can be evaluated as a major positive stride in this very respect. The truth is that the roots of misunderstandings, namely the difference of Tehran-Abu Dhabi, should be sought in the interventionist policies of certain alien powers since this is only the foreigners who will benefit from the creation of tension, dispute and disbelief [mistrust] among the regional countries in the Persian Gulf region. In fact the foreign powers are utilizing these differences as a justification for the continuation of their interventionist policies. The existence of plentiful oil deposits as well as the very strategic situation of the Persian Gulf itself are among the reasons and motivations of foreign states for maintaining their illegitimate presence in this region.

In this between [meanwhile] the proper understanding of Tehran and Abu Dhabi leaders may take away the excuse of interfering held by the enemies and thus prepare the grounds for the promotion of bilateral and

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multilateral ties among regional countries, especially when Iran and the UAE have never sought any decrease nor decline in their historical deep relations. Hence it is anticipated that the current talks between the Iranian and UAE delegations in Doha may foster a conducive ambience for the speedy and appropriate settlement of Tehran-Abu Dhabi differences.

Embassy Bombs, 'Democracy' in Egypt Viewed

LD2111114995 Tehran IRNA in English 0915 GMT 21 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Nov. 21, IRNA — While criticizing the bombing of the Egyptian Embassy in Islamabad, a morning daily emphasized that democracy is the only means to stop violence.

The English-language 'IRAN NEWS' in its editorial on Tuesday [21 November] wrote, "observers in Iran expressed shock at the bombing of the Egyptian Embassy in Pakistan's capital of Islamabad, and wished that Cairo would succeed in putting its house in order."

It went on by saying, "the Sunday blasts claimed 15 killed and 59 injured. Several organizations claimed responsibility for the tragedy. Al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah (Islamic Group), Jihad (Holy Struggle) and International Justice Group are among those claiming responsibility for the bombings, according to wire copies."

"The worst part of such tragedies is that innocent people become victims - people who had nothing to do with suppression or killing of the activists. For this reason, such violent acts must be condemned," the paper pointed out.

However, it stated, "the fact is that condemnation alone is not enough."

"A glance at the events in Egypt during the last decade is warranted. Torture, persecution, and extermination of political activists have been the order of the day in Egypt since 1992, when Jama'ah launched a democratic campaign for setting up an Islamic system in Egypt. Under these circumstances, over 800 have lost their lives but the so-called democratic system in Cairo did not even allow Ikhwan al-Muslimin, the Muslim brotherhood, to be politically active," the daily continued.

The paper also said, "the Egyptian Government banned the Muslim Brotherhood, a strong Islamic party, despite the fact that it absolutely believes in the democratic system."

"Ironically, the self-appointed champion of democracy, the West, showed no reaction when the Egyptian Government declared the Muslim Brotherhood illegal despite the fact that its entire organizational set-up was based on democratic principles," commented the editorial.

It added, "this Egyptian Government attitude also indicates that Cairo acts on the initiative and in the interest of foreign powers rather than for its own nation."

IRAN NEWS stressed, "if there really is a democratic system in Egypt, then why are the democratic forces suppressed and their followers tortured? Why are these groups banned from political activities?"

"It should be the people, not the government, who decide what brand of government should exist in Egypt," it underscored.

It continued by saying, "if the basic democratic rights of the people are usurped, as the Egyptian Government has done, then it is only natural that the activists would adopt non-democratic means, as they have done. In that case innocent people may also become victims, as in the case of the Islamabad blasts."

"We do not condone violent acts which may jeopardize the lives of innocent people. What we are saying is that the door of democracy must remain open and should be used as the only weapon to block the road to the use of weapons in achieving political goals or rights, in Egypt or in Algeria," the editorial concluded.

Daily Cites Azerbaijani Ambassador on Relations

NC1711092295 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 13 Nov 95 p 2

[Report on interview with Azerbaijani Ambassador to Iran, Elyar Seferli, by unidentified correspondent in Tehran; date not given]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran—The Republic of Azerbaijan is willing, without any discussion, to accept all Iranian conditions for expanding Baku-Tehran ties, Azeri Ambassador to Iran, Alyar Seferli told the Tehran Times in an exclusive interview.

Referring to the strengthening of relations between the two countries as a necessity, he said that Tehran-Baku links have roots in the history of the region.

"As an ambassador to Tehran, I seriously warn those who cannot tolerate such good relations between two neighbors." he stressed, adding, "It is beyond question that whoever wishes to destroy our cordial relations bears ill-will and malice toward Muslims."

Seferli also said that the historical relations between Iran and Azerbaijan have proved to be durable and lasting, and improving steadily, thanks to Allah.

He noted, "The Almighty has ordained that these two great countries shall be neighbors forever. All things

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in the world are mortal while the act of God alone is immortal. Since this relation and neighborhood is an act of God, it is therefore eternal."

Seferli then added, "The Azeri people, loving Iranians, have close relations with their Iranian neighbors. Whenever they have a chance to visit Iranians, it is as though they meet their own brothers or sisters. "

The Azeri ambassador went on by saying that the two nations have never suffered any conflicts or tensions in the history of their relations, and that "this blessing alone, which is an exception in the international politics, is a sacred blessing, which should be appreciated and safeguarded."

The ambassador then referred to the trips made by the officials of the two countries, saying that such trips help consolidate the already good relations.

Regarding a visit made by Azerbaijan's president to Tehran, Seferli said, "Such a trip could be an effective and fruitful step toward consolidating bilateral relations."

He also stressed that, in case there exist any misunderstandings between the two friendly nations, such visits could help clear them up. Yet, he said that he did not know the exact date of the forthcoming visit to Iran by the Azeri president.

Rafsanjani Holds Talks With Bangladeshi Official

BK1511030095 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in Bengali 1500 GMT 14 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Finance Minister Saifur Rahman met Iranian President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani in Tehran yesterday. During the talks, the Iranian president referred to his recent visit to Bangladesh and expressed the hope that the Memorandum of Understanding signed during his visit would be implemented on a priority basis. The Iranian president said necessary measures concerning this Memorandum would taken at the ongoing session of the Bangladesh-Iran Joint Commission meeting being held in Tehran. He added that new spheres of cooperation would also be identified at this meeting. The finance minister gave a letter from Prime Minister Khaleda Zia to the Iranian president.

Later, the finance minister held discussions with the petroleum minister of Iran on cooperation in the energy sector. Saifur Rahman also held talks with the leader of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Iran, leading exporters and importers, and also with investors.

Velayati Holds Talks With Venezuelan Official

LD1611221195 Tehran IRNA in English 1957 GMT 16 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Nov. 16, IRNA — In a meeting here today Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati and the visiting Venezuelan Minister of Energy and Mines Erwin Jose Arrieta Valera underlined the need for further cooperation among members of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC).

Valera who is the present chairman of the OPEC session, referred to the current world energy situation and stressed that OPEC members by making further cooperation among themselves should pave the way for coordinated regulations. The Venezuelan minister who is here at the head of a high-ranking political and economic delegation said his country will soon send its plenipotentiary ambassador to Iran.

Describing as bright the prospects of scientific and training cooperation between Iran and Venezuela in the fields of oil, energy, industries, mines, coal, scientific and technical, coal and training, Valera said his country was interested in using Iran's experience.

Velayati welcomed the expanding relations between the two countries and said that by exchanging ambassadors Iran and Venezuela will soon upgrade their bilateral cooperation. He also referred to trade protential of Iran's newly independent neighbours in the north, and said that Tehran as a connecting bridge between central asia and the world, could serve as a suitable centre for the activities of the Venezuelan representative.

Towards the end of the meeting the Venezuelan minister invited velayati to pay a visit to Caracas. The Iranian foreign minister accepted the reply and said he would visit Venezuela at an appropriate opportunity.

President Rafsanjani Visits Kordestan Province

Notes Economic Progress, 'Solidarity'

NC1811083895 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 18 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani continued his visit to Kordestan province and attended the provincial administrative council session last night. Our special correspondent reports:

[Begin recording] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani attended the administrative council session of Kordestan province last night and expressed his appreciation for the people of Kordestan and their warm and unprecedented welcome for the officials of the Islamic Republic

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of Iran. He attributed it to society's satisfaction with the valuable services of the revolution, the maturity of the leadership, the people's correct understanding of reality, and the ineffectiveness of the enemies' efforts to create national and ethnic discord.

The president lauded the national solidarity and cohesion among the people, including Kordestan province, as the best asset for forging ahead with construction and development matters. He stressed the pivotal role of Islam and religious law. He added: The major economic and industrial developments and the present cultural growth all over the country, especially in Kordestan province, show that the government's investment and attention along with correct and principled management, and the people's cooperation and collaboration, have had excellent and desired results. It has made the culture of productivity reign supreme over society as a highly valued concept.

President Hashemi-Rafsanjani described the people's extensive and all-encompassing participation in development projects as an indication of the confidence and awareness prevailing in society. He said: In view of Kordestan province's problems after the Islamic Revolution and the enemies' efforts to cause insecurity and keep this area in a backward state, Kordestan province could not attract private sector investment in development projects. However, today with the blessings of the selflessness and sacrifices of the armed forces, as well as the alertness and resistance of the people, lasting and reliable security has been established. Also the conditions for attracting industry and investment conducive to various kinds of development have been created and should be implemented.

Referring to the policy of stabilizing foreign exchange parity rates and the adjustment of prices, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani called for minimizing the use of foreign exchange to create a positive balance in foreign exchange reserves and for reducing costs in major infrastructure projects by using indigenous technical and engineering capabilities. He noted the rise in foreign exchange earnings and deemed these the strong points of this policy. He said: We are confident that the foundations of the country's economy are strong and invincible. [end recording]

Inaugurates Cement Works, Gives Speech

LD1811164695 Tehran IRNA in English
1547 GMT 18 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Bijar, Kordestan Province, Nov 18, IRNA — On the fourth day of his tour to Kordestan Province, President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani inaugurated several sections of a cement plant in Bijar on Saturday [18 November].

The president said in the inaugural ceremony that one of the aims of the first development plan had been to increase cement production. He said iranian experts enjoy high capability in setting up cement plants which is of great importance to the country.

Presdident Rafsanjani expressed hope that completion of the cement plants now under construction would serve to promote exporting capacity in cement sector.

Before the president's speech, Minister of Industries Mohammad Reza Nematzadeh said the Majles had approved to establish 21 cement plants during the first development plan. Three cement plants in Qa'en, Ekbatan [placename as received] and Abadeh have gone on stream and cement projects in Kordestan, Khash, Saveh and Neyriz would become operational by the end of this calendar year.

Nematzadeh said eight other projects with a total capacity of 4.2 million tons would be put into operation next year and the rest nine projects out of the total number of 21 would go on stream in the year of 1376 (1997).

Kordestan cement plant with the capacity of 2,300 tons a day is being constructed in the province with a total budget of dlrs. 42.5 million plus rls. 85 billion. 92 percent of construction works on the cement plant has been completed.

Once fully operational, Kordestan cement plant will create 300 jobs for local people.

Concludes Tour of Province

LD1911115995 Tehran IRNA in English
0903 GMT 19 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Sanandaj, Kordestan Prov., Nov 19 (IRNA) — President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani wound up his four-day inspection tour of Kordestan Province and left for Tehran on Saturday [18 November] night.

He was seen off at the Sanandaj Airport by a representative of the leader of the Islamic revolution, the governor-general of the province, the Friday prayer leader of Sanandaj and the Kordestan ulema, as well as military and law enforcement commanders and other provincial officials.

Arriving in the province on Wednesday, the president was warmly welcomed by the Kurdish people. He visited many parts of Kordestan.

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During the four-day inspection tour, various development, industrial, health, education and agricultural projects in various parts of the province were inaugurated.

President Rafsanjani also handed out the titles of 133,600 hectares of Kordestan grasslands to 2,320 households.

On the last day of the president's stay in the province, some 158 rural development and production projects, costing over rls. 10.890 million, went into operation.

On Wednesday night, a group of military and law enforcement commanders and officers met with the president, who lauded their efforts to restore and maintain security in the region.

Rafsanjani said that through their efforts it has become possible to implement development and construction projects in the region.

Predicts Bright Future for Province

LD2011132995 Tehran IRNA in English 1248 GMT 20 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Nov. 20, IRNA — President Akbar Hashemi-rafsanjani on Monday [20 November] predicted that Kordestan Province of Iran enjoying favorite geographical, natural and work force conditions as well as security, will have a very promising future.

The president was talking to reporters on the outcome of his recent four-day visit to Kordestan.

He said that Kordestan, in future, will certainly become one of the most prosperous provinces of the country.

Appreciating the people, ulema and officials of Kordestan Province Hojjat ol-Eslam Rafsanjani added that the Islamic Republic does not intend to make distinction between people of various ethnical and religious background but rather it is determined to provide equal rights for all strata of society.

President Hashemi-Rafsanjani also said that over rls. [rials] 1,000 billion, in addition to special credits already allocated to reconstruction of war-stricken areas, has been spent on various development projects in Kordestan Province.

He pointed out that electricity has been provided for nearly all parts of the province and by the end of the second development plan (1995-1999) gas will supplied to all Iranian Kurdish cities and towns.

On transfer of oil products to the province, the president said that during his visit, construction work began on a pipe-line between Kermanshah and Sanandaj which will meet the province's future energy demand.

The president said that construction work on a steel mill also began and its first phase with a capacity of 50,000 tons is to go on stream next year.

He termed the cultural activities in the province as eye-catching and added that at present more than 10,000 students are attending colleges and universities located in the province.

In conclusion the president emphasized that with security prevailing in the region, private sector should further take part and invest in industrial and economic projects in Kordestan.

Velayati Assesses 'Bond' Between Clergy, People

NC1711163295 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 12 Nov 95 pp 1, 2

[Report on "exclusive" interview with Foreign Minister Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati by ABRAR's legal and parliamentary correspondent in Tehran; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] Dr. Velayati told our correspondent: Religious leadership, the Velayat-e Faqih [rule by the supreme jurisconsult], and the support of the people are the most salient features for the powerful perpetuation of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Our foreign minister, who was answering our correspondent's questions in the Islamic Majles, referred to those who propagate the concept of the segregation of religion from politics and said: Those who propound this viewpoint are under the influence of notions planted by foreigners.

In this regard, Dr. Velayati added: During its 50 years of being ruled by the idolatrous [shah's] regime our nation experienced the bitter taste of separating religion from politics. He added: In this path there are some who, out of sheer ignorance, have become instruments in the hands of others. However, there are many who propagate the concept of the segregation of religion from politics because they subscribe to the idea and deliberately wish to strike at the roots of the nation.

The foreign minister elaborated: In the Islamic world, there are countries which for years have implemented the thesis [preceding word in English] of the separation of religion from politics, but we have not perceived any semblance of power or anything outstanding in their politics.

He added: Today some are publicizing the idea that government in Islamic countries should be secular, but they cannot present one successful case of any country

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which has followed this path and been able to progress in moral and material affairs.

Dr. Velayati described the renaissance of the pure values of Islam and the attainment of independence in the political sphere as some of the most important gains of the revolution and said: In the past 200 years, Iran has constantly been under foreign domination and since the various political and secular groups did not enjoy the people's confidence, they were not able to achieve anything. This is because in a country such as Iran—despite the variety of ethnic groups—no axis has been able to unite and coalesce the ranks of the people except Islam, the clergy, and the jurisconsults.

He added: During the past century, various movements emerged in Iran for the purpose of severing the hands of colonialists and foreigners. However, the only movement that was successful was under the leadership of the clergy.

Commenting on the effect of the role of the clergy in the victory of the Islamic Revolution, Dr. Velayati stated: The Velayat-e Faqih, the religious leadership, and the support of people are the most outstanding features for the powerful perpetuation of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

He added: The main element for bringing about the revolution was his eminence, the imam, and the institution which brought the people alongside him and carried the movement to victory was the clergy.

Dr. Velayati asserted that the clergy had constantly been on the side of the people in the history of Shiism and that the people had been the repository of its strength and stated: The solidarity between the people and the clergy is the secret of the country's success. If this bond is harmed in any way, the government will be weakened.

In conclusion, the foreign minister said: I consider it quite farfetched that those who are seeking to jeopardize the bond between the clergy and the people will ever succeed in doing so.

Methanol Production Plant Planned on Kharg Island

LD2011212795 Tehran IRNA in English 1755 GMT 20 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Bushehr, Nov. 20, IRNA — A methanol production plant is to be set up on Kharg Island in the Persian Gulf at a cost of rls. 400 billion, said the project manager here on Monday [20 November].

Speaking in the session of the administrative council of Kharg Island, Ebrahim-Pur described the plan as the biggest petrochemical project during the second five-year development plan (1995-2000) of the country which is expected to be put into operation within three years.

He added that the plant is designed to produce two thousand tons of petrochemical products per day, earning some dlrs. 130 million annually for the country.

The Kharg Island is one of the most important Iranian oil terminals in the Persian Gulf.

Petrochemical Production Shows 22% Increase

LD2011195295 Tehran IRIB Television Second Program Network in Persian 1900 GMT 20 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The domestic production of petrochemicals showed an increase of 22 percent this year compared to last year, announced an official of the National Petrochemical Company.

He said: During the past eight months 5.8 million tonnes of petrochemicals were produced and this figure will reach nine million tonnes by the end of this year.

He added: Since the start of this year $260 million worth of petrochemicals have been exported. Exports are expected to reach 2.4 million tonnes, worth about $410 million, by the end of this year.

Radio Cites Official on Petrochemical Company Plans

NC2111082295 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0430 GMT 21 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Petrochemical Industries Company is trying to achieve superior technology in the production of elastic and plastic products, which are of higher value added significance, with the help of 10 major petrochemical plans that were implemented during the First [Five-Year] Plan.

The Central News Unit reports that this was stated by an official at the National Iranian Petrochemical Company who also added: After achieving the quantitative objectives envisaged in the development plans for the petrochemical industry, the company has set three objectives—increasing exports, increasing profitability, and privatization—as its major objectives in the Second Plan.

The official added: In the Second Plan a large number of petrochemical units with a nominal capacity of less than 100,000 tonnes will be handed over to the private sector, and on the basis of steps that have been taken in this direction, a number of these units have already been accepted in the Tehran Stock Exchange Market.

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Also, the company is trying to expand its marketing and sales activities and to gain a larger share in the world's petrochemical market.

Two-Week Comparison of Prices of Goods

96LA0011A Tehran RESALAT in Persian 3 Aug 95 p 11

[FBIS Translated Text] **Comparison of Price of Goods in Two Weeks Ending on 09/05/1374 [31 July 1995]**

Economic Division—In the week ending on 09/05/1374, compared to the week ending on 02/05/1374 [24 July 1995], the prices of 67 items remained the same, 37 items decreased, and 22 items increased.

According to the economic correspondent of RESALAT, the prices of the goods that have decreased most in the period mentioned are: domestic cheese, domestic toothpaste, disposable diapers, split peas, lentils, red pencils, various kinds of notebooks, pickup truck tires, imported Peykan clutch discs and plates, oil filters, steel beams No. 16 and 18, galvanized pipes, gas pipes, plaster, pressed wood, acrylic paint, and beet pulp.

Prices of 126 Market Items and Comparison of Their Changes in 2 Consecutive Weeks (in Rials)

Name of Goods (Domestic Production)	Unit	Prices in Week Ending 2/5/1374	Prices in Week Ending 9/5/1374	Changes
Wheat	kg	350	350	0
Sugar cubes	kg	1,210-1,260	1,210-1,260	0
Sugar	kg	1,100	1,100	0
Chicken	kg	4,300-4,750	4,500-4,800	+200, +50
Eggs	carton	3,500-4,000	3,700-4,200	+200, +200
Domestic tea, 500 grams	pkg	2,100	2,100	0
Barley	kg	280	290	+10
Domestic cheese (variety)	kg	5,500-7,000	5,000-7,000	-500, 0
Pasteurized butter, 100 grams	stick	-	-	-
Shortening, 4.5 kg	can	-	-	-
Mixed mutton	kg	8,500-9,500	7,500-9,500	-1,000, 0
Beef	kg	9,500-11,000	9,500-11,000	0
Kidney beans	kg	3,300-4,300	3,300-4,200	0, -100
Red beans	kg	2,800-3,200	2,800-3,200	0
Split peas	kg	4,000-5,000	4,000-4,600	0, -400
Chick peas	kg	4,000-4,500	4,000-4,500	0
Lentils	kg	2,400-3,400	2,400-4,000	0, -400 [as published]
Imported rice (variety)	kg	3,000-4,000	3,000-4,000	0
Domestic rice (variety)	kg	4,300-6,300	4,300-6,300	0
Pasta (900 grams)	pkg	900-1,100	900-1,100	0
Potatoes	kg	500-700	500-700	0
Onions	kg	250-400	250-400	0
Carrots	kg	300-600	300-500	0, -100
Cucumbers	kg	500-800	500-800	0

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Name of Goods (Domestic Production)	Unit	Prices in Week Ending 2/ 5/1374	Prices in Week Ending 9/ 5/1374	Changes
Tomatoes	kg	400-500	350-500	-50, 0
Powdered detergent	kg	900-1,200	900-1,200	0
Dishwashing liquid	liter	1,000	970-1,000	-30, 0
Domestic toothpaste (80 grams)	tube	860-1,000	850	-10, -150
Tissue paper, 100 sheets	box	1,000	950-1,000	-50, 0
Soap (variety)	cake	450-500	430-500	-20, 0
Sanitary napkins	pkg	1,500-1,550	1,500-1,900	0, +350
Ball-point pens	each	180	180	0
Black pencil (domestic and foreign)	each	150-250	200-250	+50, 0
Ordinary 100-sheet notebook	each	1,900-2,800	1,900-2,000	0, -800
Ordinary 60-sheet notebook	each	1,500-1,700	1,300-1,400	-200, -300
Ordinary 40-sheet notebook	each	860-980	850-950	-10, -30
Chintz	meter	2,000-2,200	2,000-2,200	0
Various kinds of serge	meter	15,000-38,000	15,000-38,000	0
90 cm-wide longcloth (variety)	meter	1,800-2,000	1,800-2,000	0
School uniform [fabric] (variety)	meter	7,000-12,000	7,000-12,000	0
Sheeting (variety)	meter	2,500-7,000	2,500-7,000	0
Black chador [fabric] (variety)	meter	5,000-13,000	5,000-13,000	0
No. 16 steel beam	each	220,000	215,000	-5,000
No. 18 steel beam	each	300,000	290,000	-10,000
No. 20 steel beam	each	500,000	5,000	0
Aluminum strips	kg	4,500-4,800	4,500-4,800	0, 0
Cement	pkg	4,500-5,000	4,800-7,000	+300, +2,000
White cement	pkg	7,000-13,000	7,000-16,000	0, +3,000
Plaster	pkg	2,200-2,500	2,100-2,500	-100, 0
Bricks	ton	26,000	26,000	0
Pane glass, 2-3 mm	square meter	5,500-7,000	5,000-7,000	0, 0 [as published]
Oil paint (variety)	kg	4,500-9,200	4,500-9,500	0, +300
Acrylic paint (variety)	gallon	6,000-26,000	5,000-26,000	-1,000, 0
Tiles (Sa'di)	square meter	8,000-12,000	8,-12000	0, 0
Wallpaper	roll	12,000	12,000	0

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Name of Goods (Domestic Production)	Unit	Prices in Week Ending 2/ 5/1374	Prices in Week Ending 9/ 5/1374	Changes
8-ft Azmayesh motor refrigerator	each	580,000	575,000	-5,000
Iran-Puya refrig.	each	was not offered	750,000	-
10-ft Arj refrig.	each	702,000	702,000	0
12-ft Pars refrig.	each	was not offered	1,080,000	-
12-ft Pars upright freezer	each	was not offered	1,110,000	-
Black/white 14-in. Pars TV	each	260,000	252,000	-8,000
Automatic Azmayesh washing machine	each	990,000	970,000-1,120,000	-20,000, +130,000
Pakshuma washing machine	each	265,000	265,000	0
Movalled (Eletrolux) vacuum	each	435,000-475,000	440,000	+5,000, -35,000
35-piece melamine service	per set	40,000-130,000	40,000-130,000	0
11-kg gas cylinders	capsule	45,000	45,000	0
Thin machine-made carpet (variety)	square meter	9,000	9,000	0
12-meter Gilan machine-made carpet	each	was not offered	630,000	-
12-meter Ravand Kashan machine-made carpet	each	was not offered	630,000	-
Yazd Setareh-ye Kavir machine-made carpet	each	80,000-880,000	850,000	+50,000, -30,000

SALAM Says Nateq-Nuri Provides Loans in Majles

96LA0008C Tehran SALAM in Persian 25 Sep 95 p 2

[FBIS Translated Text] **News Service—Mr. Ahmad Nateq-Nuri, the deputy from Nur in the Majles, grants loans.**

According to a report by our correspondent, yesterday a large number of people, estimated at nearly 400, had assembled in front of the People's Referral Office of the Majles to obtain loan application forms.

The people, who had assembled since before 6 am, finally succeeded in meeting with the new representative, Mr. Ahmad Nateq-Nuri, at 0700.

Based on the same report, first those who had submitted the applications, the picture of which follows this news item, prior to this succeeded in obtaining verification from the office of the Majles deputy. These forms accompany a letter signed by Mr. Ahmad Nateq-Nuri addressed to the Central Branch of Mellat Bank requesting that a loan be given to the applicant. Then the new people came to submit the forms they had filled out, the response to which will be given next week.

According to our correspondent from the location, the gathering and the rush was such that the representative of Mr. Ahmad Nateq-Nuri left the location several times and returned after a few minutes to respond to the applicants.

It is interesting that our correspondent, who had gone to report from the location, has also filled out a form in order to benefit from this public banquet and has given it to the representative of Mr. Ahmad Nateq-Nuri, hoping to be introduced to the bank next week to receive a loan.

In the name of the Almighty

Dear Brother, Mr. Haj Ahmad Nateq-Nuri, honorable deputy of the Majles:

Respectfully, I [blank space] have urgent need for [blank space] rials in interest-free loan for repayment

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of housing. Please issue the appropriate instructions for this payment. Thank you.

Employee of the Office of [blank space]. Personnel number [blank space]

Place of work:
Home: [blank space] Telephone: [blank space]
Signature: [blank space]

Nateq-Nuri's Response, SALAM Comments

96LA0008D Tehran SALAM in Persian 30 Sep 95 p 2

[FBIS Translated Text] **News Service**—Last Monday [25 September] we reported, "Mr. Ahmad Nateq-Nuri Grants Loans," printing the special loan application form in the same report. We pointed out some of the procedures for receiving housing loans from the deputy from the city of Nur in the Majles. Following the report, an explanation was sent from the Central Office of Cultural Affairs and Public Relations of the Majles to the office of the newspaper. We will first call to the attention of our readers its text and then comment on this explanation.

Honorable Editor-in-Chief of SALAM:

Greetings

In connection with the matter published on page 2, dated 03/07/1374 [25 September], issue No. 1249 of this newspaper, entitled "Mr. Ahmad Nateq-Nuri Grants Loans," please print on the same page the text of the response made by Mr. Ahmad Nateq-Nuri in contact with this office in order to make it clear to the public.

"With the coordination of the Imam Javad Charity Organization, affiliated with the late Martyr Shahabadi, in order to eliminate the problems of needy individuals and some of the students, every month, four or five people have been introduced to me by this charity, after investigations and verifications, to help alleviate their problems through the banks. I took steps in accordance with the regulations, and the goal of this action was God's contentment. Unfortunately, someone whose purpose was to create mischief and evil, obtaining one of these forms, had copied it and placed it at the disposal of a large number of people in order that the people might assemble and achieve his objective. SALAM newspaper, too, before contacting me to clarify the matter, has published it, an act that is questionable and unfortunate. With this action of yours, this charitable door has been closed."

Central Office of Cultural Affairs and Public Relations of the Majles

Regarding the original report and the above explanation, several points are worthy of note:

1. It is not clear why the response by Mr. Nateq-Nuri has been sent by the Public Relations Office of the Majles. Could he not contact the newspaper office and explain himself? For this reason, we had no legal obligation to publish this matter, but since it might partially clarify the truth, we have done so.

2. He has said that loans were granted to about four or five people a month, but as it was reported by our correspondent on location, on Sunday last week alone, dozens of people were introduced to the Mellat Bank to receive loans.

3. He has said that after the investigation and verification of a charitable organization, individuals were introduced to him. This is contrary to the eyewitness account of our reporter. It was reported in SALAM that the applicants, without going through any preparations, only by filling out the special forms which had not been verified by any authority, went to the Referral Office of the Majles in order to receive the verification of Mr. Nateq-Nuri to receive loans and were introduced to Mellat Bank, as was our correspondent, who went through the process and is waiting to receive a loan from the bank.

4. If the qualifications of these individuals have been verified by the charitable organization, why did the charitable organization itself not introduce them to the bank? If the verification of a charitable organization is not the legal criterion for the bank, what legal justification could Mr. Nateq-Nuri have?

5. In the conclusion to his explanation, he states: "With this action of yours, this charitable door has been closed." The question is, if his relationship with the charitable organization, the banks, and the loans granted were legal, for what reason should this charitable door close? In the report in SALAM, apparently no negative point was made, and we published the loan application form while stating that our reporter has also taken steps to obtain a loan. Then, for what reason have they avoided the continuation of this charitable action?

6. In the past few days, the efforts of our reporters to obtain the explanations of the Mellat Bank officials have not been successful, even though the Public Relations Office of the bank has announced in response to our reporter that it will provide an explanation in this connection. In any case, it is the responsibility of the Mellat Bank to explain when they began granting these loans; the amount of funds paid so far in this form of loan; for what reason these funds were allocated through a particular person; and while ordinary people are almost helpless to receive even small interest-free loans from the banks, how was such a relationship created?

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Pakistan

Group Said To Withdraw Claim for Egyptian Bombing

BK2111092295 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 21 Nov 95 p 1, 5

[Staff report]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad, Nov. 20: The al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah, which had earlier claimed responsibility for the bombing of the Egyptian Embassy in Islamabad on Sunday [19 November] withdrew its claim on Monday and congratulated the Jihad group for the successful operation.

A press release from Jihad group received by a London based daily AL-HAYAT today, contained details of the attack on the Embassy. According to the press release the vehicle used in the operation was a pick-up which came from Suherwardy Road and turned left from French Embassy 150 meters away from the Egyptian embassy gate, the release further said that one of the two attackers came out of the vehicle carrying a bag full of heavy explosive material.

He rushed to the gate where he put the bag, which after explosion blew away the gate. After the first explosion the vehicle entered the gate and exploded.

The press release was issued by the information and media office of the Jihad Group by fax.

Jihad Group Said Responsible for Embassy Bombs

MM2111120195 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 21 Nov 95 pp 1, 6

[Report by Ahmad Muwaffaq Zaydan and Muhammad Salah: "Jihad Spokesman Reveals Details About Two Perpetrators"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Islamabad, Cairo — Informed Pakistan sources told AL-HAYAH yesterday that the U.S. Embassy in Islamabad has requested that an FBI team participate in the investigations being conducted by Egyptian and Pakistani officials to identify those behind the blast in the Egyptian Embassy in the Pakistani capital.

The Jihad organization has confirmed to AL-HAYAH over the telephone its responsibility for the incident, and it provided details revealed for the first time.

Meanwhile, the Pakistani authorities have launched an arrest campaign against the Arab Afghans, especially the Egyptians, arresting 16 people suspected of involvement in the incident, which resulted in 15 people being killed and about 60 wounded the day before yesterday. AL-HAYAH has learned that 13 have been released after proving that they went to Pakistan to participate in a religious conference, while investigations are continuing with the remaining three, two Egyptians and a Jordanian. [passage omitted]

It is reported that the finger of accusation is now pointing more at the Jihad and International Justice organizations, as it has been reported that the Islamic Group is preparing to deny its responsibility for the incident. A source acquainted with the Group's ideology has told AL-HAYAH that he rules out its responsibility for the attack, "because the Islamic Group does not believe in suicide operations."

This has been supported by a telephone statement to AL-HAYAH in London by a spokesman for the Jihad, in which he said that "the Group has blessed the Jihad's [operation] and is preparing to issue a statement to this effect." The spokesman revealed new details about the attack. He said: "A small pick-up truck moved closed to the embassy through Sahrurdi [as transliterated] Road with the driver and a companion inside. It swerved to the left behind the French Embassy where the passenger walked 150 meters carrying a case full of explosives, blowing himself up in front of the Egyptian Embassy gate, hence allowing the truck to storm the gate and move into the courtyard, where the huge explosion took place."

The Jihad spokesman promised to provide further details about the identity of the perpetrators. Meanwhile, Pakistani Interior Minister Nasirullah Babar admitted the security organs' laxity in providing protection for diplomatic missions. [passage omitted]

Leaders Comment on Attack at Egyptian Embassy

Bhutto: Attack Due to Drugs, Violence

BK2011142295 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1300 GMT 20 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has reiterated that a jihad [holy war] would continue against the menace of narcotics and the politics of terrorism, as we want to establish a society free from all forces of darkness. She was speaking at a big public meeting in Mirukan today while inaugurating the gas supply scheme for the township. A warm and enthusiastic welcome was accorded to the prime minister when she reached Mirukan, Larkana. The prime minister inaugurated the gas supply project by pushing the insulation button. A 15-km gas pipeline has been laid at a cost of 71 lakh rupees for providing gas supply to the residents of the area.

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Speaking at the meeting, the prime minister said the present government has ushered in a new era of dawn in the country promising welfare and betterment of the dispossessed masses. She said we are totally against hatred, prejudices, sectarianism, and culture of violence and drugs. The prime minister criticized the antipeople and the antistate forces who have amassed illegal wealth as part of the corrupt culture and are now using the weapons and wealth by hatching conspiracies against the government's constructive and development activities.

She strongly condemned the bomb blast at the Egyptian Embassy in Islamabad, causing loss of precious life and property and said it is the outcome of the culture of drug and violence promoted by the previous government. The Sindh minister, Mr. Nisar Ahmad Khoro; Mir Nadir Ali Khan Magsi, and the officials of the gas supply project on the occasion said gas supply project and similar other such schemes would improve the civic amenities of the area.

Baber, Ali Condemn Attack

BK2011141795 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1300 GMT 20 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Dead bodies of the five Egyptians, including two diplomats, who were killed in a powerful bomb blast at the Egyptian Embassy yesterday were flown to Cairo in a special plane this afternoon. Their namaz-i-janaza [funeral prayers] were offered at the PAF [Pakistan Air Force] base, Chaklala. Interior Minister Nasirullah Khan Babar, Foreign Minister Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali, Egyptian Ambassador in Pakistan Mr. Nu'man Jalal, attended the namaz-i-janaza. A large number of diplomats, high-ranking officials and Egyptians living in Islamabad also offered namaz—i-janaza. Later, the coffins of the five Egyptians were placed in the special plane to be flown to Cairo. They included the general councillor of the Egyptian Embassy, Hisham Abu Wafa, and the second secretary, Mr. Ahmad Numayr. The dead bodies of the three security guards, Mr. (Husayn Fani), (Ahmad 'Ali), and (Mahmud Maks'ud), have also been flown to Cairo. Mr. 'Adil al-'Iraqi, another embassy official who was injured yesterday, has also been flown to Cairo. Members of the families of the diplomats and other staffers killed in the blast are also accompanying the coffins.

Meanwhile, the number of those who have been killed in the blast has now risen to 15. The last casualty was that of Mr. Hisham Abu Wafa, who expired at the PIMS [Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences] hospital last night. Touching scenes were witnessed as the dead bodies were being flown to Cairo.

Interior Minister Nasirullah Khan Babar has said that the government is determined to weed out terrorism. Talking to newsmen at the PAF base, Islamabad, this afternoon, he called upon the world community to rise above their narrow consideration to fight out the international terrorism.

[Begin Babar recording] The present government has all the will and all the strength to contest and fight this international terrorism. I will beseech and request the international community that they should rise above the frontiers and the borders of their respective countries and fight terrorism as terrorism. [end recording]

In his comment, the foreign minister, Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali, condemned the incident of terrorism at the Egyptian Embassy.

[Begin Ali recording] We hope that cooperation between all countries of the region, between Egypt and Pakistan, will become very strong so that terrorism can be controlled and contained. [end recording]

Egyptian Ambassador in Islamabad, Nu'man Jalal, thanked Pakistan for providing all out assistance following the bomb blast at the embassy yesterday.

[Begin Jalal recording] I convey the appreciation of the Egyptian Government and the people to the president and the prime minister and the minister of interior and all other ministers and the people of Pakistan for extending all efforts and all other means to be available to us to help in this issue and to facilitate the task of moving the dead bodies, the (?wounded); and also the promise that Egypt and Pakistan they are two brothers, and fighting against terrorists. This terrorism cannot be accepted and cannot be tolerated. [end recording]

President Says Steps Taken To Strengthen Security

BK2011164095 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 20 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] President Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari has called for launching a movement to improve the quality of education for the betterment of society and the economy. He was speaking at the third convocation of the Qaid-i-Azam University in Islamabad today. The president said we will have to give maximum attention to education, especially to the education of women, if we want to compete with other nations. [passage omitted]

Later, while talking to newsmen, the president said the government is taking necessary measures to beef up the security system to effectively control acts of terrorism. He said Pakistan is fully committed to the fight against terrorism.

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Referring to the bomb blast at the Egyptian Embassy yesterday, the president said it is a part of international phenomenon and that similar acts of terrorism are being faced by the whole world. He said no country is out of the reach of terrorists. The president added the government is fully cognizant of its responsibilities and it will succeed in checking terrorism.

Babar Welcomes U.S. Experts To Fight 'Terrorism'

BK2011150995 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1400 GMT 20 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The dead bodies of five Egyptians who were killed in a blast at their embassy in Islamabad yesterday were flown to Cairo this afternoon. The assistant counselor, 'Adil al-'Iraqi, who was injured and is in stable condition, has also been sent to Cairo, while Muhammad 'Uthman, another diplomat at the embassy, is under treatment in Islamabad. The namaz-i-janaza [funeral prayer] was offered before the bodies were boarded in a special Egyptian airliner. It was offered, among others, by the foreign minister, Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali; the interior minister, Major General, retired, Nasirullah Khan Babar; ambassadors of some Arab countries, besides senior officials.

Meanwhile, a special team has arrived in Islamabad from Egypt to assist the Pakistan authorities in the investigation of the blast. Talking to newsmen, the Egyptian ambassador in Islamabad, Mr. Nu'man, expressed deep gratitude on behalf of President Husni Mubarak and people of his country to the government and people of Pakistan for the prompt assistance and help to the embassy staff. He said Egypt and Pakistan will work side by side to fight against terrorism.

The interior minister, Maj. Gen., retired, Nasirullah Khan Babar, said the government has the will and strength to fight terrorism. He requested the international community to rise to the occasion to fight international terrorism collectively. He said a high-level inquiry has been ordered into the blast. He said the United States has offered Pakistan any assistance and Pakistan would welcome experts on explosives. Answering a question, the interior minister said if in future names and identification of people are given, the government will not hesitate in apprehending and deporting them to the countries of their origin.

The foreign minister, Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali, described the incident as very tragic.

Egyptian Groups Said To Call Islamabad 'Home'

BK2011132195 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 20 Nov 95 p 1,10

[Report by Kamran Khan]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] KARACHI — In the first half of the eighties at least 1,200 Egyptians slipped past the eyes of their President Husni Mubarak to reach Pakistan to learn the deadly art of guerilla warfare and to gain practical battle experience in the rugged mountains and plains of Afghanistan. Depite gruelling efforts by the Egyptian Government, only a handful of them have returned to their native land.

On Sunday [19 November], Pakistani, Egyptian, western security officials suspected that a select group from some of those "former Egyptian Mujahideen" might have carried out the bomb explosion that constituted the worst terrorist incident in the Pakistani capital.

This was the making it severest attack on Egyptian interests outside that country by Islamic extremists.

Talat Qasim, one of the most revered leaders of Jamaa Islamiyaa, the Egyptian group that has accepted the responsibility of Sunday's blast at the Egyptian embassy in Islamabad, was one of the first Egyptians to land in Peshawer to join the Afghan war.

Later he emerged as a war hero and the commander of one of the most potent group comprising his fellow countrymen, Afgans and Pakistanis, ideologically affiliated with the Jamaat-e-Islami.

After travelling extensively in Pakistan during the war, Qasim is believed to have made scores of extremely motivated friends. He was recently arrested in Europe during a short trip. He was quickly extradited to Cairo. The Jamaa Islamiyaa immediately vowed to carry out a revenge attack, though, few suspected that the Jamaa Islamiyaa would strike in its second home—Pakistan.

Senior Pakistani security officials, who had dealt extensively with the Arab volunteers during the Afghan war, said on Sunday that they knew for sure that despite Pakistan's extradition treaty with Egypt, signed last year, scores of Afghan veterans from that country have condtinued to live in Pakistan or in the bordering Afghan areas.

Security officials and sources in the religious parties engaged in the Jihad in Indian held Kashsmir and other places in the world say that most of those Egyptian veterans have assumed the role of instructors in military training camps inside Afghanistan.

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Some of the those are now the idealogues for 'Jihadi parties', an informed source said. Pakistan based Egyptians and local religious groups date back to the early years of Afghan war when Sheikh Omar- Abdul Rahman, the Egyptian cleric, recently convicted in the WTC bombing case in New York came to Peshawer along with scores of deeply motivated Arab Youth, particularly from Egypt. Gama now considers Sheikh as one of the most respected spiritual and religious leaders.

Sheikh, along with his followers, is believed to have spent several weeks in Islamabad at the height of Afghan war. "For many followers of the Sheikh, Islamabad is home," observed a fromer ISI [Inter Services Intelligence] official. He said that during the Afghan war the Egyptian fighters had access to the most sensitive offices in Islamabad.

The officer who had handled a large number of Arab guerrillas during the eight years of the Afghan War said that the largest number of volunteers came from Egypt. "There were a lot of raw hands. We had to work very hard to train them for the war," he said. The ISI official, quoting secret government documents, said that about Egyptian nationals took part in the Afghan war. Undoubtedly, this was the largest foreign segment directly involved in the combat," the officer added.

Among those who had excellent relations with Pakistani officials and Pakistan based religious groups was Mohammad Shawki Islambouli, the brother of Major Khalid Islambouli who had assassinated the Egyptian President Anwar Sadat during a military parade in October 1981.

Sources said that Islambouli was deeply respected in Islamabad as one of the most significant leaders of a very potent group.

Most of the veteran Egyptian fighters, notwithstanding an extradition treaty with that country, had managed to stay back in Pakistan as several religious parties mounted pressure on the government not to extradite Egyptians who had came to Pakistan to participate in the Afghan War.

Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto was forced to take that position after several Paksitani Islamic groups particularly the Jamaat-i-Islami pledged to take her government to task, if any effort was made to extradite Pakistan based Egyptians. "After those threats the Interior Ministry was asked to go slow and the Egyptians were allowed to relocate themselves in safer places in Pakistan and across the borders in Afghanistan," according to a well informed senior officials.

Minister Claims NGO's 'Sanctuary' for 'Terrorists'

BK2111093295 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 21 Nov 95 p 1

[Report by political correspondent]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad: Interior Minister Nasirullah Babar said on Monday [20 November] that the Islamic University, some NGOs and Madrisas have become a sanctuary for saboteurs and terrorists.

"I would close the Islamic University if I could," the interior minister told a group of reporters at his chambers on Monday. He said there is no check on the movement of the students of Islamic university. He did not name any suspects or NGOs.

Babar said Egyptian nationals coming back to Islamabad after attending a congregation of Tablighi Jamaat were stopped by the authorities in Lahore for interrogation.

Replying to a question, the interior minister said the government of Pakistan has sent 10 Egyptians back to their country on the request of their government. "Sunday's blast may be a reaction to that," Babar said.

He said the target of the bombing was not the Pakistani Government but the Egyptian. Sunday's incident occurred at the Egyptian Embassy, "which is considered a land of Egypt and where Egypt's laws apply."

Replying to a question, the interior minister said a number of terrorists entered Pakistan during the Afghan war and are active in the acts of terrorism. When we initiate action against them, they cross the borders and enter Afghanistan.

"NGOs and Madrisas are also providing them a safe haven," the interior minister said.

Islamic Students Protest Statement

BK2111093995 Hong Kong AFP in English 0902 GMT 21 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad, Nov 21 (AFP) — Riot police were called in to the Pakistani capital Tuesday [21 November] as hundreds of students from the country's main Islamic institution demonstrated against a minister for calling their campus a haven for terrorists.

The students demanded the resignation of Interior Minister Nasirullah Babar who reportedly branded the International Islamic University here, a "haven for saboteurs and terrorists," following Sunday's blast at the Egyptian Embassy.

Riot police, armed with batons, surrounded some 700 angry students but did not intervene during the noisy

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two-hour demonstration after which the protestors peacefully drove away in seven buses.

"If love for Islam is terrorism we will commit this crime again and again," said a placard held by one of some 250 veiled female students taking part, many of them from various Asian and Arab states.

Foreign male students at the university, an institution established with financial help from oil-rich Arab states in the eighties, did not join in the protest.

Two Egyptians and a Jordanian studying at the university were picked up by police late Sunday for questioning, but officials said they were later released.

The angry students chanted "Allah-o-Akbar" (God is Great) and slogans denouncing Babar and the government as a "puppet" of the United States for its alleged "crusade" against Islam.

"Islam is a religion of peace," said one of the rally leaders in a speech, voicing condemnation of the suspected suicide bombing on Sunday of the Egyptian Embassy and perpetrators of terrorism in the world.

Newspapers quoted Babar as telling reporters Monday if he had power he would close the university, which has about 2,000 on its rolls, including many from Arab and Asian countries.

Navy Begins 12 Day 'Multi-Dimensional' Exercises

BK1911124995 Islamabad THE NATION in English 19 Nov 95 p 14

[Unattributed report]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Karachi (APP) — Sea Spark-95 the 12-day multi-dimensional exercise of Pakistan Navy commenced here on Saturday [18 November] morning.

Pakistan Navy sources talking to APP, said that SEASPARK is the dominant naval event of the year. The present naval exercise is the 14th of the series.

Admiral Mansurul Haque, Chief of Naval Staff, earlier in his 'Order of the Day' said that peace time training exercises, involving ships, submarines and aircraft operating under realistic conditions, provide an ideal opportunity to ascertain the composite response of Pakistan Navy in today's multi-dimensional threat environment.

Navy sources said during 'SEASPARK-95' a large contingent of Army Air Defence Command is taking part, along with active participation of PAF's [Pakistan Air Force] southern Air Command.

'SEASPARK' will continue till Nov. 29.

The main purpose of the Exercise is to assess war preparedness of the Pakistan Navy and evaluate various operational concepts, the sources added.

The exercise is being held under the 'Blue Command' and the "Orange Command'. [quotation marks as published]

The sources said that ports and Shipping Organization, Pakistan National Shipping Corporation, Pan Islamic Steamship Company and National Tanker Company, etc. are also taking part in the exercise, the sources added.

It further said that Pakistan Navy is making best endeavours to ensure that the "SEASPARK-95" is executed in an efficient manner so that shortcomings in executing various operations are evaluated in a better way.

The participating forces include: Destroyers, Auxiliaries, Mine counter measures Vessels, Fast attack Craft, Submarines, fixed wing Air-craft, Helicopters and Special forces, etc.

Meanwhile ISPR [Inter Service Public Relations] added later, that this year's exercise will also include operations specially tailored to evaluate recently evolved concepts relating to merchant marine convoy defence air defence at dispersed sites and ascertaining of status of facilities at under-construction Jinnah Naval Base for sustained supportability of the navies ships and aircraft from Ormara.

Apart from all available submarine, ships, naval aircraft, naval marines and maritime security agency units designated elements of the PAF maritime squadron, Army Air defence, Pakistan coast guards and Turkish SSGN will also participate in the exercise.

The operation area of the exercise extends upto 400 nautical miles into the sea all along Pakistan's 650 KM long coast-line from Sir Creek in the south east of Jiwani in the west.

Saturday's proceedings which were attended by the Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee COAS [Chief of Air Staff], CNS [Chief of Naval Staff] and VCAS included an inaugural briefing given at the maritime headquarters by Vice Admiral Khan, who on behalf of the Chief of Naval Staff is conducting the two sided exercise and will act as its chief umpire.

The OCE briefing was followed briefing by Rear Admiral Javaid Iqbal who as Orange Force Commander will simulate the enemy from his headquarters located at Liaquat Barracks, from where he will direct all units assigned to the Orange Force.

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This was followed by a briefing held at Jinnah Naval Base Ormara where Rear Admiral Fasih Bokhari the Blue Commander apprised the visitors of his plan pertaining to conduct of operations from his headquarters at PNS AHSAN located on Ormara head. The briefing session was followed by a weapons demonstration at sea in which various participating units of the Blue Force demonstrated to the visitors their individual capabilities against a simulated enemy.

The current exercise is the 14th of the SEASPARK series of exercises held to date since their institution in November 1980. debrief of the exercise will be held on 14 December and is expected to be attended by the Prime Minister.

Sri Lanka

Government, LTTE Continue Fighting Near Jaffna

Army Reportedly Seizes 2 'Vital Towns'

BK1911100495 Hong Kong AFP in English 0938 GMT 19 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] COLOMBO, Nov 19 (AFP) — Sri Lankan troops advanced further to capture two small but vital towns from Tamil Tiger guerrillas Sunday [19 November] to get within striking distance of the Tamil rebel bastion of Jaffna, officials said.

Thousands of soldiers backed by tanks and artillery took Nallur and Thirunelveli, reaching to within half a kilometre (0.3 miles) of the outer limits of Jaffna, officials said.

"The advance is progressing very well. The famous Nallur Kandasamy Kovil (temple) is now within the liberated area," a military spokesman here said adding the army was consolidating in the two towns.

There were no immediate reports of casualties in the drive which came as the separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) claimed responsibility for downing an air force cargo plane Saturday, killing five crewmen.

Top army field commander Major General Rohan Daluwatte said his men had overcome fierce resistance from the Tigers to press ahead with their offensive code-named Rivirasa (Sunshine) to capture Jaffna.

"We will be in Jaffna in a few days. It will bring a ray of hope for the Tamil people," the state-run television quoted him as telling troops in Jaffna. "We will banish darkness and usher in sunshine for people of Jaffna."

A total 15,000 soldiers are taking part in the Rivirasa offensive, Sri Lanka's biggest military campaign, launched on October 17 to drive out from Jaffna the LTTE guerrillas who have ruled it as a de facto state since 1990.

The troops have captured large areas in the latest drive, which began a month ago, losing some 330 men. The military says at least 1,400 guerrillas have also died.

The latest advance, after a two-day lull, came as the LTTE said that it used cannons Saturday to bring down the Chinese-built Y-8 aircraft, the largest in the air force, north of the Palaly military base in the Jaffna peninsula.

"The Y-8 was on its low level landing approach to the Palaly airfield when it was shot down by LTTE forces using 20-mm Oerlikon cannons," the LTTE said in a statement issued by its London office.

The LTTE is known to have used heat-seeking surface-to-air missiles to bring down three air force planes since pulling out of a three-moth-old truce with Colombo on April 19.

The Tigers said the military had retaliated to the shooting down of the Y-8 by attacking vital areas of Vadamarchchi and Thenamarachchi in the peninsula with helicopter gun ships and artillery, killing 10 civilians.

The rebels said 19 others were injured in the shelling. The military denied the allegation, saying they had bombed only "identified LTTE targets."

The LTTE said it was resisting the army's advance on Jaffna, and claimed the security forces were bogged down just outside the town limits of Jaffna.

"The Sri Lankan military now appears to be equipping and replenishing the forces in preparation for another major push to take Jaffna," the LTTE statement said.

Deputy Defence Minister Anuruddha Ratwatte said the army was confident of capturing Jaffna, but expected the dragging separatist war, which has left more than 50,000 people dead, to go on.

Ratwatte, a member of the majority Sinhalese community, told The Island newspaper that after seizing Jaffna, the troops would try to win the hearts and minds of Sri Lanka's minority Tamils.

"(But) the taking of Jaffna will not mark the end of the ongoing military onslaught against the LTTE," said Ratwatte, who is leading the battle against the Tamil Tigers.

"We will consolidate our power in Jaffna town and launch an operation of a different kind," said Ratwatte, a former army colonel and a close relative of President Chandrika Kumaratunga.

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The fighting has left tens of thousands of Tamils in Jaffna homeless.

Troops Said 'Digging In' Near Jaffna

BK2011051195 Hong Kong AFP in English 0457 GMT 20 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] COLOMBO, Nov 20 (AFP) — Sri Lankan troops began digging in at the gates of the Tamil rebel citadel of Jaffna Monday [20 November], a day after at least 180 soldiers and guerrillas were killed in heavy fighting, the military said.

Thousands of soldiers backed by tanks moved within striking distance of Jaffna town after resuming their advance at dawn Sunday amid stiff resistance from the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), a military spokesman said.

"We have no reports of overnight fighting. But the army is now consolidating in the newly captured areas," chief military spokesman Sarath Munasinghe told AFP. "We are just outside the Jaffna town limits."

He declined to say when the army would storm Jaffna, the symbol of Tamil separatism and the capital of a huge de facto state the LTTE has maintained in Sri Lanka's north since 1990.

At least 12 soldiers and 80 guerrillas were killed in fierce battles on Jaffna's outskirts Sunday. The LTTE retaliated in the island's east, killing 38 troops in an ambush which sparked gunbattles leaving 50 rebels also dead.

Nearly 110 soldiers and 200 rebels were wounded in the fighting, military officials said.

"The casualty figures for Sunday are quite high for the army," a defence official here said. "It will no doubt have an impact on the final push on Jaffna."

Sunday saw some of the heaviest fighting since Sri Lanka began its biggest military offensive October 17 to drive the Tamil Tigers out of the Jaffna peninsula, which the rebels had controlled since 1990.

The Sri Lankan army has not set foot in Jaffna since hundreds of soldiers were evacuated from Dutch-built Jaffna Fort by helicopters en masse in 1990 following a prolonged LTTE siege.

Jaffna is now a ghost town, its hundreds of thousands of civilians having fled ahead of the military offensive during which the troops have taken large areas from the LTTE.

Tamil sources described the imminent fall of Jaffna as a major setback to the Tigers, who have vowed to defend it to the last man.

At least 280 soldiers and 1,500 guerrillas have died since the military offensive codenamed Rivirasa (Sunshine) began a month ago. Thousands of others have been wounded on both sides.

A total of 15,000 soldiers are taking part in the army drive. The military says it expects further fighting to be bloody as the troops would have to fight street-by-street to take Jaffna.

Deputy Defence Minister Anuruddha Ratwatte said Sunday that the fall of Jaffna would not end the separatist campaign which has claimed more than 50, 000 lives in two decades.

Army Attacks 'Rebel Bastion'

BK2111040395 Hong Kong AFP in English 0353 GMT 21 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] COLOMBO, Nov 21 (AFP) — Tamil Tiger guerrillas attacked police in eastern Sri Lanka Tuesday [21 November], killing two constables and wounding 15 as the army stormed the rebel bastion of Jaffna in the island's north, defence sources here said.

Dozens of gunmen from the separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) launched the pre-dawn assault to overrun the Lahugalla police facility, but security personnel resisted the attack, the sources said.

The police complex houses ordinary constables as well as a unit of the elite Special Task Force (STF) commandos who have been carrying out anti-LTTE operations in eastern jungles, the sources said.

"Two constables were killed and about 15 STF men wounded. There should be casualties among the Tigers, but we have no details yet," a defence official here said.

The Tiger attack in the east came a day after thousands of soldiers breached the LTTE's main citadel of Jaffna and kept up an advance towards the town centre barely 2.5 kilometers (1.5 miles) away from army lines.

Fierce fighting raged as the army entered Jaffna for the first time in five years Monday, leaving at least five soldiers killed and 40 others wounded, the military said.

A military statement said the army estimated that about 40 guerrillas were killed and at least another 100 wounded in close- range fighting on Monday. There were no immediate reports of overnight fighting in Jaffna.

The army is keeping up its biggest offensive, launched on October 17 with the aim of completely taking Jaffna, the capital of a de facto state the Tigers have been running since 1990.

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More than 50,000 people have died in bitter fighting during the LTTE's decades-old struggle for a Tamil state in predominantly Sinhalese Sri Lanka.

LTTE Said 'Massing Thousands of Fighters'

BK2111061295 Hong Kong AFP in English 0601 GMT 21 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] COLOMBO, Nov 21 (AFP) — Tamil Tiger guerrillas are massing thousands of fighters in Jaffna to prevent the fall of their stronghold to advancing Sri Lankan troops, Tamil sources said Tuesday [21 November].

The sources quoted travellers from the island's embattled north as saying that thousands of guerrillas of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) had moved to Jaffna peninsula from the mainland in recent days.

"Not less than 2,000 Tigers have moved north to Jaffna in the past week," a Tamil source quoted travellers as saying. A large number of Tamils have come to Colombo from the LTTE-held zone in the north.

The sources said it was clear that the LTTE was beefing up its strength in Jaffna for a last-ditch battle to prevent the army from capturing the now ghost town, the traditional symbol of Tamil militancy.

The sources, who have extensive links with Tamils in Sri Lanka's war-torn northeast, quoted a traveller from [word indistinct], south of Jaffna, as saying that the largest movement of LTTE fighters to Jaffna took place a week ago.

The LTTE guerrillas were reportedly moving from Mannar in the island's northwest and the thickly-forested Wanni region in the north to Jaffna, further north, by road and later in boats past the Jaffna lagoon.

"It is clear that the LTTE is interested in giving a last-ditch battle in Jaffna (town)," a Tamil source said. "There are going to be many casualties on both sides."

Sri Lankan troops on Monday stormed into Jaffna town, for the first time since 1990, breaking the LTTE defences at Nallur, on the eastern edge of Jaffna, one month after mounting the country's biggest military offensive.

The army had earlier captured vast areas in the Jaffna peninsula.

But the LTTE, reputed as the world's deadliest guerrilla group with some 10,000 fighters, still controls large areas in Sri Lanka's north and northwest, and is also active in the eastern province.

More than 50,000 people have been killed in the LTTE's protracted separatist campaign for a Tamil homeland called Eelam.

Troops, 'Terrorists' Continue Fight

BK2111114095 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 21 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Troops of Operation Riviresa [sunshine] continue to fight their way through Nallur in the outskirts of Jaffna city limits. Terrorists put up resistance but the troops overcame this resistance with superior firepower. A news release from the operation headquarters yesterday said that the advance was slow due to booby-traps and mines and also due to the fact that the area is heavily built-up. Terrorists blew up a row of 19 houses of the people of Jaffna by detonating one house which had been connected to the balance houses using detonating cord.

As a result of the fighting so far, one officer and four soldiers were killed in action and three officers and 37 soldiers wounded. Troops had observed many terrorist bodies ahead of the present positions held by the troops. Troops confirmed a minimum of 40 terrorists killed and over 100 injured. Troops at present are consolidating in jungle area Nallur. The operation continues.

The first stage of liberating the Jaffna peninsula from the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] terrorists will be completed within a few days. Deputy Defense Minister Colonel Anuruddha Ratwatte said that the government will be able to complete this exercise within a few months. He was speaking at a simple ceremony held at the ministry yesterday to receive donations for the National Defense Fund. The government's next plan is to create an environment for the Tamil people to live in their homes peacefully devoid of terrorism. An environment should be created so that these people can live with other communities in a united sovereign state and devolution of power. The deputy minister pointed out that our forces were able to carry out their fight unitedly and show the terrorists that they have the necessary strength and courage to defeat them.

Troops Aim 'To Starve' LTTE

BK2111144595 Hong Kong AFP in English 1422 GMT 21 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Colombo, Nov 21 (AFP) - Sri Lankan troops on Tuesday [21 November] opened a new flank to surround the Tamil rebel bastion of Jaffna, where the army set foot one day earlier for the first time since 1990, military sources said.

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Troops who stormed into Jaffna have taken a detour instead of forging straight ahead into the heart of the town to trap well-armed guerrillas of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) defending their citadel, the sources said.

"Our aim is to starve them," a military official said here.

The sources said thousands of soldiers were heading to nearby Navatkuli, where a key road links Jaffna town area with the rest of the Jaffna peninsula, which has been controlled by the LTTE for the past five years.

Monday's storming of Jaffna's border region of Nallur came more than one month after Sri Lanka launched its biggest military offensive against the LTTE, reputedly the world's deadliest guerrilla group.

Military officials said houses and buildings across Jaffna town had been heavily booby-trapped with explosives by the LTTE to prevent further advance by the soldiers, and army engineers were trying to defuse them.

On Monday, a soldier stepped up on an anti-personnel mine at Nallur which set off a series of blasts that brought down 19 houses in a row, incapacitating an entire platoon, the sources said.

"We don't want to take unnecessary casualties by just rushing in," a senior defence official said. "There is no hurry to take Jaffna (town)."

Tuesday's diversion came as troops continued a painstaking house-to-house search at Nallur, on Jaffna's eastern edge, as thousands of Tamil rebels braced for a last-ditch battle in the heavily-built up town.

Most parts of Jaffna town were still under LTTE control.

Sri Lankan troops, who are backed by tanks, artillery and the air force, are still 2.5 kilometers (1.5 miles) away from the heart of Jaffna.

Military sources said the army feared heavy street-by-street fighting if they were to advance into Jaffna, the traditional symbol of Tamil militancy and capital of the LTTE's de facto state in northern Sri Lanka.

Some 300 soldiers and 1,600 guerrillas have died in fighting since the military campaign began October 17. Thousands of others on both sides have been wounded.

Tamil sources said the LTTE was massing thousands of fighters in Jaffna to prevent its fall to the army, which has not had a presence in the besieged town since hundreds of troops were evacuated from Jaffna Fort in 1990.

The sources quoted travellers from the embattled north as saying that men and women guerrillas had been seen moving to Jaffna, in the north, from the Sri Lankan mainland.

"Not less than 2,000 Tigers have moved north to Jaffna in the past week," a Tamil source quoted travellers as saying. A large number of Tamils have come to Colombo from the LTTE-held zone in the north.

Travellers reaching Vavuniya, also south of Jaffna, said that the Tigers were still seeking recruits, saying they would go for a drawn-out guerrilla war if Jaffna falls completely.

Three policemen were killed in a diversionary pre-dawn ambush by the LTTE in the country's east Tuesday, officials said.

The LTTE, with some 10,000 fighters, still controls large areas in Sri Lanka's north and northwest, and is also active in the east. Large areas of Jaffna are with the army.

More than 50,000 people have been killed in the LTTE's homeland campaign across the island's northeast.

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